



The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

Covering Yorktown, Somers, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Buchanan, Ossining and Peekskill

FREE

April 28 - May 4, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 540



Gullotta House Making A Difference

Gullotta House distributed more than 15,000 free meals last week in Ossining, Peekskill, Somers and other Westchester municipalities. Volunteers will be outside A.S.A.P. Mortgage Co. at 2 South Division Street in Peekskill again on Saturday, May 2 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Gullotta House is a non-profit organization that strives to aid residents of Westchester County who face financial or other hardships. Tax deductible donations can be made at: https://gullottahouse.org/a-s-a-p-mortgage-supports-free-c...

Support Connection Continues Mission During Financial Challenge

By Rick Pezzullo

Since 1996, Support Connection has served as a lifeline for individuals and their families battling breast and ovarian cancer, providing free and confidential services not offered anywhere else.

Support groups and other programs are offered in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties, as well as national toll-free support groups and teleconferences. Support Connection has provided assistance to more than 10,000 women, stretching as far as France and Belgium.

The non-profit organization, which is not affiliated with any other cancer groups, relies heavily on the generosity of others as 85% of its annual operating budget comes from donations.

Since the coronavirus pandemic has taken a stranglehold on society, all of Support Connection's fundraising events planned for the first half of the year, including its annual spring benefit (second largest fundraiser) and June golf outing (third largest fundraiser), had to be postponed or cancelled.

In addition, the resale store it operates in



Katherine Quinn has been Support Connection's executive director since its inception.

Chappaqua as another revenue source had to be closed.

"It's been tough for everybody," said Katherine Quinn, Support Connection's executive director since its inception. "We're relying on the kindness of people. We know our mission. We know we need to be there for people. We haven't skipped a beat and we don't intend to."

Forced to dip into a reserve account from last year to help pay its bills and its nine employees, Quinn said Support Connection is

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JFK High Senior on Front Line Fighting COVID-19 Virus

By Rick Pezzullo

While students are out of the classroom, a John F. Kennedy Catholic High School senior has been out on the front line helping in the fight against COVID-19.

Patrick Baia, a trained New York State Emergency Medical Technician whose family has strong ties to medicine and medical services, has been tending to the sick and injured in New York City and Yonkers as a member of Empress Medical Services.

Transporting many positive coronavirus patients to the hospital for treatment, Baia is also helping to staff the Yonkers Medical Evacuation Transport Unit (METU). The Yonkers Police Department created the METU to protect the safety of the people



Patrick (left) and Daryn Baia about to start their volunteer shift at Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

of Yonkers. The METU provides the Yonkers Police Department the capability to treat, transport, or temporarily shelter 30 to 40 pa-

tients during an emergency.

Baia studied for the NYS Certification for EMT at Phelps Hospital in Sleepy Hollow on his own

time after school in the evenings during the winter. He became an EMT in February, quickly going onto the front lines in Yonkers,

New Rochelle and Mount Vernon.

In addition to working for Empress Ambulance in Yonkers, Baia also volunteers as an EMT for the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corp (YVAC). He is a third-generation volunteer for YVAC, following in the footsteps of his father, Daryn Baia, and grandparents, Jim and Lori Baia. His father also works for Empress Emergency Medical Services as the Director of Clinical Services. Baia's mother, Erin, serves works as a nurse at the Westchester Medical Center.

Baia is planning to become a paramedic upon completion of his studies at the University of New Haven, where he is the recipient of the university's Presidential Scholarship.

Support Connection Continues Mission During Financial Challenge

Continued from page 1

reaching out to its donors to try to fill an anticipated \$85,000 gap. The organization has applied for a federal small business loan but, like many businesses, has received no confirmation.

"We really don't know what the future will be," Quinn said. "There's so much uncertainty. It is a chal-

lenge. The response has been positive. I feel that people are helping us to meet the challenge."

With the technical support of Sergio Esposito, president of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, Support Connection has set all staff up to work remotely, including its peer counselors, who have been fielding large numbers of calls and emails daily from cancer

patients and survivors who are overwhelmed by trying to manage their unique health needs while the health care system is severely over-taxed. It has also transitioned all of its monthly support groups to toll-free teleconference and has been offering other virtual programs whenever possible.

"What we're trying to do in this environment is we're really trying to

take a step back," Quinn said. "We're not letting this get in our way. People need us."

One guarantee Quinn made was Support-A-Walk, which generates 40% of Support Connection's annual revenue, will take place on October 4—in some fashion, whether at FDR State Park in Yorktown, or in individual neighborhoods.

"We hope to be together at FDR

Park. If not, we will make sure people are walking where they are," Quinn said. "We're all adapting to the times."

To learn more about Support Connection or how to make a donation, visit www.supportconnection.org or call (914) 962-6402. The toll-free hotline is 1-800-532-4290. Emails can be sent to info@supportconnection.org.

Yorktown Suspends Rent for Community Center Tenants

By Rick Pezzullo

The Yorktown Town Board unanimously agreed last week to suspend rent payments for tenants of the Albert A. Capellini Community and Cultural Center while the facility is closed due to coronavirus pandemic.

The affected tenants are the Westchester Ballet Center, Bright Beginnings, WestCOP Head Start and Yorktown Stage.

"We cherish our community partners and value the services they provide our residents," said Supervisor Matt Slater. "Tuesday night's vote was a helping hand we are extending to our partners during this crisis."

Collectively, the community

center's tenants pay about \$20,000 a month in rent. The community center has been closed since mid-March when pandemic closures took effect. A reopening date for the community center is undetermined.

"The Yorktown Stage has experienced significant loss in revenue due to the coronavirus and is so thankful to the Town of Yorktown for recognizing the situation and forgiving our rent," said Barry Liebman, producing director of Yorktown Stage. "This is a perfect example of good government helping those in a time of need and we anxiously await resuming business and providing great entertainment for Yorktown residents."

Town Board members said the action taken was necessary.

"We can't in good conscience expect the center's tenants to continue paying rent when they are facing so many challenges caused by the pandemic," said Councilman Tom Diana.

"The community center's tenants deliver vital services to our residents. By suspending their rent payments, we are increasing the likelihood that they will be able to reopen and serve our neighbors once again," said Councilman Ed Lachterman.

Added Councilman Vishnu Patel, "We are in the same boat and together we will come out stronger together."

Break on Fees for Late Tax Payments

Meanwhile, Yorktown officials

informed residents struggling with their finances in the wake of the New York State on Pause measures they will not be charged late fees if they do not make timely tax payments under a new emergency measure.

Westchester County officials received permission from Governor Andrew Cuomo last week to remove late fees for county residents and businesses for late payment of their property taxes.

On March 31, Slater was one of the first supervisors to ask Cuomo for the suspension of the late fees, while the Yorktown Town Board passed a resolution supporting Westchester County Executive George Latimer's push toward eliminating penalties for those financially

impacted.

"We led from the front on this issue from the very beginning and proved bipartisanship is alive and well for the good of the people," Slater said. "Having heard from many concerned taxpayers who are out of work and facing financial hardships, this is simply the right thing to do."

To have the late fee waived, a resident or business must certify economic hardship caused by COVID-19. The threshold for the certification requires in part that a resident must have qualified for the STAR exemption, is not paying property taxes through an escrow account and can assert that they have suffered loss of substantial employment income as a result of COVID-19.



5 Questions Women Should Ask About Breast Cancer Surgery

Ask the Doctor

Ranjana Chaterji, DO
Breast Surgeon
Northwell Health Breast Care Center
Northern Westchester Hospital

Learn more about Dr. Chaterji, visit nwhbreastcarecenter.org/DrChaterji



Q: What stage is my cancer?
A: Breast cancer stages are represented on a scale of 0 to 4, with 4 being the most serious. Stage 0, also called ductal carcinoma in situ, means that your cancer is contained in a milk duct and has a low risk of spreading. Stage 4 breast cancer means the cancer has spread to other parts of your body. If your cancer is stage 4, seeking treatment immediately may improve your outcome and ultimate quality of life.

Q: How do I decide whether a lumpectomy or mastectomy is the best option?
A: More often than not, you will choose the type of surgery you feel most comfortable with. The survival data of lumpectomy with radiation is equivalent to that of a mastectomy, so we've learned that more surgery is not necessarily better.

Q: How soon does surgery need to be done?
A: Typically, we try to operate within a month of a diagnosis — you don't have to decide immediately. You can learn about breast cancer, understand your options, and then make a decision you're comfortable with. A woman's gut feeling is most important. My patients often ask me, "What would you do?" But it's not about me — it's what the woman wants and what makes sense for her, her family, and her life.

Q: How do I choose a surgeon?
A: Seek a fellowship-trained breast surgeon. These are surgeons who, after their residency, do a fellowship specific to oncologic breast surgery. At Northern Westchester Hospital, we work as a team to care for you through surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, genetics and plastic surgery.

Q: How can I find support during this difficult time?
A: Northern Westchester Hospital's Bruce and Andrea Yablon Cancer Health and Wellness Program provides supportive care and holistic treatments that complement medical treatment. You can choose free integrative medicine services, including reiki, acupuncture, massage, nutrition planning, fitness and exercise plans, mindful wellness and emotional support, and a survivorship program.

We also partner with Support Connection, a group that offers free emotional, social and educational support services to women and their families and friends affected by breast and ovarian cancer. I encourage my patients to take part in these programs. The support enables women to help each other and empowers them to become their own health care advocates.

Cuomo: Portions of New York Could Reopen By Mid-May

By Martin Wilbur

New York is eyeing a phased plan to partially reopen portions of the state as early as mid-May when the current stay-at-home expires.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo presented a broad outline Sunday of a plan based on the region, employee risk and how essential a business may be.

Cuomo said the first phase would be limited to low-risk construction and manufacturing operations while the second phase would require each business to make the case for reopening by submitting a matrix that would outline how they are protecting their employees and how necessary the service or the product they provide.

Any company's matrix must address a plan on transportation, on-site capacity, spacing for employees, personal protection equipment, among other factors, he said. There would be a two-week break between phases to assess the results.

Portions of the state could get the go-ahead to begin Phase I as soon as May 15 should current trends hold while others remain on pause, Cuomo said Monday.

"But you have to be smart about it, because if you're not smart, you will see that infection rate go right back to where it was," Cuomo said. "We'll be right back to where we were 58 days ago, and nobody wants to do that."

Figuring into the reopening strategy is more diagnostic and antibody tests state as well as tracking hospitalizations, the governor said. Diagnostic tests determine who is infected while antibody tests uncover those individuals who had been infected by the presence of antibodies, which presumably provides immunity.

The state released on Monday results from the second round of antibody results, which showed through 7,500 random tests conducted, there is a statewide positive rate of 14.9 percent. Nearly one in four New York City residents tested positive for antibodies while Westchester and Rockland had a 15.1 percent rate and Long Island 14.4 percent.

Six of the state's seven other regions – the Mohawk Valley, the North Country, the Capital District, Central New York, the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes – all have positive antibody rates of between 1.2 and 2.7 percent.

Cuomo said transit workers, the NYPD and NYFD will have 1,000 members each who will receive the antibody tests in the coming week along with 3,000 healthcare workers.

Meanwhile, the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations statewide and in Westchester continue to decline. Hospitalizations, which peaked at more than 18,000 throughout the state earlier this month, had 12,819 through Sunday, marking 14 consecutive days of declines, according to the Department of Health. However, there were 1,052 new hospitalizations on Sunday.

The state death toll has risen to 17,303, including another 337 on Sunday. Westchester County has seen 962 fatalities with 43 in Putnam County.

County Executive George Latimer said while there have been 28,007 total positives, there are 8,221 active cases, the lowest since Mar. 29, and 877 hospitalizations. All numbers represent statistics through Sunday.

While the curve on the graphs is flattening, Cuomo announced that four makeshift

hospitals, including the 110 beds at the Westchester County Center and 2,500 beds at the Javits Center, along with two locations on Long Island, will remain intact through next flu season.

"I think it's wise to have a decision about how best to use those 110 units (at the County Center)," Latimer said.

Cuomo appealed to philanthropies to help contribute to the state's overrun food banks. The state is also pledging \$25 million in funding, Cuomo said. For organizations to contribute, e-mail Fran Barrett at COVIDPhilanthropies@exec.ny.gov.

The state will also look to coordinate bringing excess product that upstate farmers have been throwing out to downstate areas where families that have lost paychecks need food, the governor said.

Also last week, Cuomo signed an executive order that will allow the state's roughly 5,000 independent pharmacists to collect diagnostic tests. The state has been conducting an average of about 20,000 diagnostic tests a day. The goal is to double that in the upcoming weeks. Through Sunday, 826,095 tests have been conducted statewide.

Attorney General Leticia James and the state Department of Health also opened an investigation into nursing homes and adult care facilities following a torrent of coronavirus-related deaths.

Facilities must comply with a series of guidelines to protect residents and staff and will face stiff fines and even revocation of



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

their license if they fail to comply.

"The state has very strict guidelines on privately-run facilities," Cuomo said.

"They get paid to take care of a resident. That resident, that patient, must have a state-directed level of care. If they cannot provide that, they can't have the residents in their facility."

The order came following an exceptionally high number of deaths at facilities throughout the state from COVID-19 since early March. As of Sunday, 3,625 deaths statewide came at nursing homes or adult care facilities. Westchester has had 275 nursing home or adult care deaths and Putnam County has had 12.

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Clos Du Bois Chardonnay \$9.97	Grey Goose Vodka 1.75L \$39.97	<p style="color: red; font-size: small;">Now you can take us with you wherever you go! Download our Mobile App!</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> Available on the iPhone App Store </div>		Yellow Tail Pinot Grigio \$9.97 1.5L	Ruffino Chianti \$9.97 1.5L		

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Local Businesses Feel Pain After Being Shut Out of SBA Loans

By Martin Wilbur

In late March, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) made available \$349 billion in small business loans available to millions of operators who hoped it would provide a lifeline for themselves and their employees in desperate times.

"If you're forced to close and you can't open your doors and you don't have any revenue flow, that (program) is everything if you have any number of employees, full-time employees," said Neal Schwartz, president of the Armonk Chamber of Commerce and owner of College Planning of Westchester.

But for many who tried navigating the dizzying and complex application process and subsequent rush to submit the forms to their banks, the effort and desperation went for naught during the first round of loans. Untold numbers of business owners were shut out when the program, part of the CARES Act that had been passed by Congress, exhausted its funds in about two weeks.

Plenty of business owners believed that it wasn't anything that they did wrong in the dash for the money, but rather some banks may have dropped the ball or, worse yet, gave preferential treatment to their larger customers. The latter sentiment has gained traction, especially as reports of large corporate operations such as Ruth's Chris Steakhouse and Shake Shack swooped in and received millions of dollars that many believed should have been

intended for mom-and-pop operations.

Chappaqua-Millwood Chamber of Commerce President Dawn Dankner-Rosen, who also owns and operates a small public relations firm, said she believes that many local merchants lacked the expertise and needed more help.

"I'm very frustrated. Everybody is. It's just not right. It's unfathomable," Dankner-Rosen said.

The ambiguities of the program, hastily rolled out to quickly get money into the hands of business owners whose livelihoods disappeared overnight, left many financial institutions that would ultimately decide whether to approve applications and process the paperwork, following different sets of rules, said Carl Weiner, a Briarcliff Manor accountant and restaurant owner, who helped many of his clients.

Some banks believed, for example, that an applicant needed to be a customer, particularly the larger banks, that handle more volume, he said. Others used different cutoff dates for newer customers.

Then larger banks may have approved the loans but if they didn't upload the information into the Small Business Administration's (SBA) E-TRAN system, then it wasn't in the queue, potentially costing applicants crucial placing, Weiner said.

Weiner said all 15 of his commercial customers that applied for the PPP loans at Tompkins Mahopac Bank were approved. A few more of his clients based in Pennsylvania who do their banking at a small financial



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Most stores that were forced to shutter in downtowns throughout the area received no help from the Paycheck Protection Program.

institution were also successful, he said.

"The smaller banks did a much better job because it was mostly paper applications, not through some online portal," Weiner said.

According to the SBA, as of Apr. 20, 81,075 small businesses in New York received \$20.3 billion in loans that provide eight weeks of expenses. Despite those numbers, hundreds of thousands came away empty-handed.

Loretta Brooks, co-executive director of the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce, agreed that many merchants expressed similar frustration. She has heard of only one of her chamber's members to receive money.

"Business owners, especially those

categorized in non-essential categories, are truly suffering," Brooks said. "As we approach another month with no opportunity for businesses to generate revenues due to the forced shutdown, business still are facing the stress of mounting bills that could overwhelm their future existence. The promise of help from the program was needed and welcome, but there is an obvious problem with its execution that needs to be recognized and addressed."

Problems continued during the first day of the second round of PPP loans approved by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump last week. With the glut of applications on Monday, the SBA website crashed.

While there have been numerous horror stories and many others who have not heard from their banks, the White Plains-based Arch Street Communications, a strategic communications and public engagement firm, was a fortunate recipient during the first round of loans.

Its CEO and founder, Nora Madonick, credited not only her expertise gained as a Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program graduate, but a representative at Key Bank who notified her of the loans before applications were accepted and urged her to prepare.

"They didn't do anything for us but they guided us through the process," Madonick said. "We had to do the paperwork and to through the numbers, and it was difficult."

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Pantries Working Overtime to Feed Legions of Hungry Families

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County for a long time has had its share of poverty and families making regular visits to a food bank or pantry.

But for the past month-and-a-half, as business closures and the ranks of the unemployed have mounted at a frightening pace, the number of families that have turned to one of the community pantries has also swelled.

Households that never before needed to make use of a pantry are now forced into making that decision for the first time, said Jenna Lee Russo, public relations director at Feeding Westchester in Elmsford.

"Before the pandemic we served 200,000 people. That need has more than doubled," Russo said last week. "It is not just in Mount Vernon and Yonkers and Peekskill. It's in Mount Kisco, it's in Bedford, it's everywhere. It's actually everywhere."

Feeding Westchester, which supplies about 300 pantries and other partner programs throughout the county with food, distributed a record 2.1 million pounds from the beginning of March through mid-April. In March alone, it handed out 1.5 million pounds, nearly double the amount it dispensed in March 2019.

Russo said that while the food bank is supposed to only serve Westchester residents and communities, for the first time she saw out-of-state license plates lining up outside.

Although the need is great, Feeding Westchester has plenty of food to meet its regular needs and the crush of new people seeking food, at least for another six weeks, Russo said. About a week before the metropolitan area's first outbreak in New Rochelle occurred, the organization anticipated that the coronavirus could pose a serious threat.

Russo said Feeding Westchester "will never run out of food."

"We went ahead and purchased a lot of food at that time," she said. "Right now, we're sourcing food for June. We're already set with all the food we need through the first week in June."

Proportionately speaking, the community pantries are also seeing and feeling the pinch. The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry, which operates out of the United Methodist Church on Main Street and receives much of its stock from Feeding Westchester, typically serves between 300 and 320 families a week. But that number mushroomed to more than 500 families in the first days of the shutdown and the need continues to grow, said Kelley Hausman, the pantry's board president.

The demand was so great that the decision was made to shift away from a choice pantry because of the social distancing guidelines, and move to drive-through service in the church's parking lot, she said.

When that overwhelmed the site,



Large teams of volunteers are unable to pack food at Feeding Westchester in Elmsford as they have done before because of social distancing. The protocol is one of the many challenges the food bank and pantries face.

the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry organized more home deliveries while also operating off-site at Neighbors Link, where a sizeable number of its clients make use of those programs, Hausman said.

So far, the pantry has been able to meet the demand.

"So it's all the agencies helping out and cooperating," Hausman said. "I think we've done an admirable job in providing a safety net in the community."

Another pantry, Hillside Food Outreach, continues to make its regular rounds of delivering to families and seniors throughout Westchester, Putnam and Fairfield counties. Hillside founder Kathy Purdy said not only have their

set of volunteers been able to keep up with the deliveries to 1,200 Westchester households every other week, but through last Friday there were 427 emergency runs for those who must remain at home during the five-week period.

Before the COVID-19 crisis, Hillside would average about five emergency runs a month. For Purdy, she's concerned that her volunteers are getting fatigued and there is a finite amount of money to buy their product.

"We have to keep the donations coming in, too," Purdy said, "and I hope the people will not get donation weary or volunteer weary. But a lot of people just don't have food and we're doing the best we can."

Among the challenges for the pantries is packaging the food. Beforehand, volunteers would prepare the packages in close quarters at each pantry's headquarters. Russo said a skeleton crew now does the work to maintain distancing.

Some staples have been more difficult to obtain, such as rice, but it's been easier to find produce, she said.

Feeding Westchester has also been sending out its mobile van, which made a visit to the Boys & Girls Club in Mount Kisco last Thursday.

Russo is grateful for the individual and corporate support Feeding Westchester receives.

"We have some generous donors, people in the community who see the need," she said.



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Bedford, Mt. Kisco to Partner on Local COVID-19 Testing Site

By Martin Wilbur

Bedford and Mount Kisco are organizing a drive-through diagnostic COVID-19 testing site for the two municipalities' residents which could launch as soon as this Saturday.

Bedford Supervisor Chris Burdick, with assistance from Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich and County Legislator Kitley Covill (D-Katonah), has identified the Bedford Hills train station as the location. As of Monday, some of the logistics still needed to be ironed out, but Burdick and Picinich said they were eying this Saturday and to initially have testing conducted two days a week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Testing is a critical element in our ability to reopen, and so the sooner we can get this up and running and have experience with it, the better the ability to carry increased capacity as needed," Burdick said.

Personnel from a Connecticut-based medical group certified to operate in its home state as well as New York will conduct the nasal and saliva swab testing, Burdick said. It was unclear how many tests might be conducted each day.

"We're going to see how Saturday goes and see what the volume is and adjust accordingly," he said.

As New York state has been looking to increase testing capacity, localities have increasingly turned to private labs and

medical facilities in hopes of bringing that testing to scale.

Covill said as long as the outfit is certified and licensed to operate, the county Department of Health remains neutral. It is only when the state is looking to set up a testing site, will they call upon the county health department, she said.

Regardless of the entity, the results will be reported to the state.

"They don't do the vetting for anybody, so I guess it's up to Chris and Gina and me to make sure that whoever knocks on the door or whoever's door we may knock on is legitimately licensed in New York State to perform this kind of testing function," Covill said.

There has been no regular testing site in the northern half of the county, prompting Burdick and Picinich to search for a way to offer it to their residents.

Picinich said a website will be set up where residents of either municipality will be able to set an appointment to avoid a free-for-all at the testing site. She said it's critical that the number of tests be increased so the public has confidence and that policymakers can make sound decisions regarding the economy's reopening.

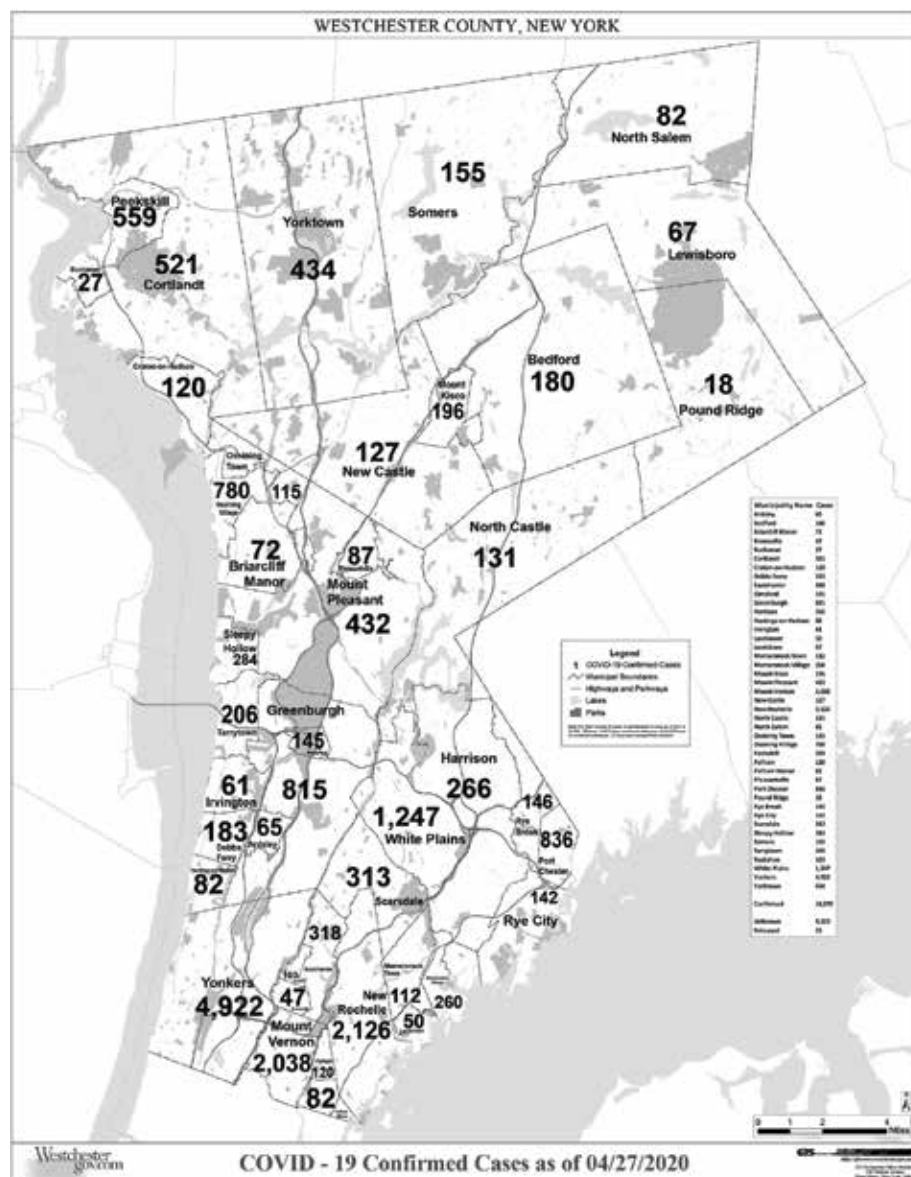
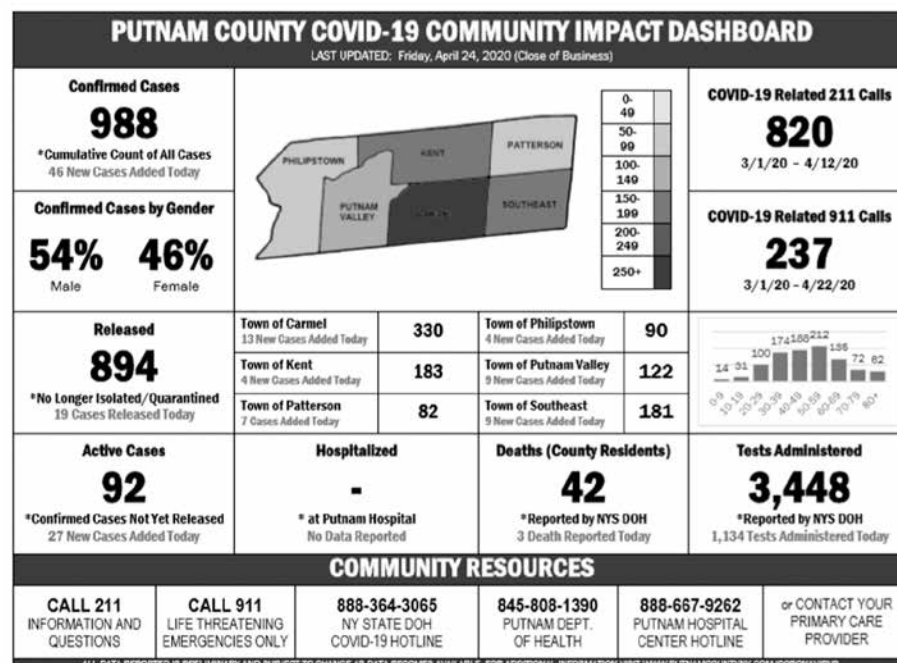
"We're working together on that, again with the idea and the notion (that) the more positives we can identify, the more

cases we can trace and isolate," Picinich said.

Covill said that Westchester County has pressed the state for testing that could accept residents from throughout the northern part of the county, but that hasn't materialized. FDR Park in Yorktown had been identified as one suitable location with the space needed to take in a large volume of cars.

"We're going to see how it goes but we think that two days a week will cover it," Burdick said of the estimated demand at the Bedford Hills location. "It could be we open up the demand for tests."

More information about hours and how to secure an appointment is expected to be known later this week through the two municipalities, he said.



The map containing the number of positive COVID-19 test results in each Westchester municipality.

Tips for Decluttering!

The Vision Team



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It helps to have a system in place as you begin to declutter, clean and reorganize. Getting started is sometimes the hardest part. Here are a few helpful tips!

Tip #1: Create a space in your home where you can start putting items you no longer want or need.

Tip #2: Using 4 Boxes or Bins Method

- **Box 1: Trash** - Any items you want to get rid of that aren't worth donating or selling.

- **Box 2: Give Away/Sell** - Items that are still in OK condition, but that your household could do without - like old books, toys.

- **Box 3: Storage** - Things that you can't or don't want to get rid of, but don't need on a day-to-day basis (seasonal decorations).

- **Box 4: Put Away** - Any items that need to be kept in your house, but relocated to their proper place.

Tip #3: Start with something easy. You will feel a sense of accomplishment and be motivated to do more.

Get your **Decluttering Checklist** at:
www.DonnaEdlund.com or
www.cbmoves.com/Hans.Weber.

Obituaries

Gloria DiNardo

Gloria Claire Pisani DiNardo passed away on Apr. 18. She was 90 years old.

Gloria was born on July 13, 1929, in Peekskill to Vincenzo and Marianina Tarantino Pisani. She graduated from Peekskill High School in 1948, where she excelled in art. On Nov. 21, 1959, she married Felix J. DiNardo at Assumption Church in Peekskill.

Gloria was a stay-at-home mom who put her children above everything. She donated much of her time to the Assumption School where her daughters attended as well as the church. She was a member of the Columbiettes of Peekskill and the Italian Club.

She had a passion for art, and many may not realize the beautiful pieces she created. She also enjoyed traveling around the country, taking cruises and Broadway. She loved

hosting parties and was the best cook. She was always "the life" of the party. But most of all, her love was for her family, especially her two grandchildren.

DiNardo is survived by her two daughters, Lisa (John) Wyskida of Cortlandt Manor and Diane (Kurt) of Croton-on-Hudson; two grandchildren, Maria and John James Wyskida; and many nieces and nephews.

Family who predeceased her include her husband, Felix, and her baby daughter, Kathryn Ann, along with her sisters and brothers – Rosina, Eleanor, Josephine, Catherine M., Helen, Yolanda, Bruno and Vincent.

Calling hours were at Nardone's Funeral Home in Peekskill on Apr. 27, followed by a burial service at Assumption Cemetery.

Michael Morano Sr.

Michael A. Morano Sr., a Crompond resident, died on Apr. 16. He was 68.

Morano was born May 29, 1951, in Mount Vernon to Angelo and Natalina Morano. He is survived by his wife, AnnMarie Morano; his four children, Michael Morano Jr. and wife Kristina, Angelo Morano, Anthony Morano and Laura Kojamanian; his sister, Angela Cavallo; and his seven grandchildren, Michael Morano III and wife Christina, Victoria Morano, Danielle Morano, Dominick Morano,

Angelo Morano Jr., Anthony Morano Jr. and Nicholas Kojamanian. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by Victoria Morano and daughter Natalie Morano.

Morano was a hardworking man. He built his own business in his early thirties and made it into a very successful construction company, now run by his grandson Michael III. His company has been in business for more than 30 years, and the family will continue run the business in honor of Mike's legacy.

Jeffery Seneca

Jeffery James Seneca of Pleasantville died peacefully on Apr. 17 from complications associated with the coronavirus. He was 64.

Jeff lived a full life filled with "abbondanza."

In the 1970s, he and his brother, Drew, made their way from New York to California as a successful guitar duo performing original music. Seneca wrote timeless songs he recorded and played professionally into the next decade.

In later years, he became an award-winning wildlife photographer and accomplished birder whose great respect for nature inspired others to live more thoughtfully. He embraced holidays, especially Christmas, and relished the opportunity to share his collection of seasonal decorations. He was full of intrigue and surprises, and even managed to acquire the title of Lord in Glencoe, Scotland despite never having visited the country.

Seneca was born on Oct. 23, 1955, to his parents, Andrew and Marge. He is survived by his wife, Christine, whom he met on Feb. 4, 1978, while performing with his band at the Colonial Tavern in Hawthorne. They shared 36 beautiful years of marriage and created a loving family with their children, Jeffery Jr. (43) and Christopher (34). He cherished his in-laws, Lisa and Geno; his daughters-in-law, Laura and Amisha; his grandchildren, Gabriella and Hunter; and the extended network of nephews, cousins, relatives and friends with whom he created the memories we hold in our hearts.

Jeff was generous until the end, caring, kindhearted, spontaneous and fun. We are devastated at his departure, but



Jeffery Seneca

he left a treasure trove of artifacts and remembrances that will lighten the lives of those who are still here and yet to come. We could have only asked for more time, though it would never have been enough for those who loved him.

We all knew Jeff as someone who was "there" for us, which makes it especially difficult that we cannot gather and be there for him right now. When this plague is over, we will hold a Catholic Mass and celebration to commemorate his life.

In lieu of flowers, please consider supporting coronavirus relief efforts through the American Red Cross. To respect our loss and Jeff's selflessness, his family asks everyone to remain aware of social distancing and public health guidelines.

Lillian Lehr

Lillian Lehr passed away on Apr. 21 at The Paramount at Somers Rehabilitation & Nursing Center from acute respiratory failure. She was 90 years old.

Lillian was born in Brooklyn on Jan. 30, 1930, to Joseph and Sarah Patiky and attended Prospect Heights High School. On Jan. 9, 1949, she wed her high school sweetheart, Herman Lehr, and they remained married for over 57 years until his death on July 19, 2006.

For most of her life, Lillian was a devoted wife and homemaker raising her children and tending to the special needs of her oldest son, Randy. She was very artistic, played bridge, bowled in mixed leagues and loved crossword puzzles and word games. She was a former volunteer and officer with the Association for the Help of the Mentally Handicapped in Co-op City.

Her brother, Philip, and sister Sylvia Rosen predeceased her. She is survived by two sons and a daughter, Randy of Beacon, Corey (Cynthia) of Mahopac and Terry Ferrara (Robert) of Eastchester; four grandchildren, Eric and Rachel Lehr and Nicole and John Ferrara; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Lillian Lehr

Funeral services are being arranged by Cargain Funeral Homes, Inc. of Mahopac. Due to the health crisis, Lehr will be laid to rest in a small private ceremony at King David Cemetery in Putnam Valley.

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

The Yorktown Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Yorktown are compiling a list of local restaurants and businesses who offer special services during the COVID-19 crisis.

BUSINESS / RESTAURANT	TAKE OUT	DELIVER	CURBSIDE SERVICE	GIFT CARDS	PHONE #	WEBSITE
AJ's Bar & Grill	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-737-5058	http://www.ajsbarandgrill.net
Bangkok Spice	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	914-245-3690	http://www.bangkok-spice.com
Bob's B'Q's	Yes	No	No	Yes	914-214-8239	http://www.robcookfood.com/
Chef Rob's Catering	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-483-8989	https://www.dunkindonuts.com/en/locations?location=10598
Dunkin Donuts - Yorktown	Yes	No	No	Yes	914-962-2191	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Edwin's Deli	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-455-2663	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Frankie & Augie's	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-245-9241	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Hacienda Sauza	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-528-1110	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Heavy Bear Deli	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-243-4945	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Hill Blvd Diner	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-352-6474	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Il Forno Italian Kitchen & Bar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-277-7575	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Little Sorrento	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-736-6767	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Maria's Pizza	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-962-3583	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Mima's Pizza	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-352-6777	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Mohegan Diner	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	914-528-2585	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Panera Bread	No	No	No	Yes	914-245-4599	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Pappous-Greek-Kitchen	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-455-2111	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Pizza Hut - Mohegan Lake	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	914-528-1111	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Put Some Meat On Your Bones	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-391-5527	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Rooster's Wings & Brew	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-743-1797	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Salsa Fresca	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-962-0600	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Savannah & Company	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-736-1203	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Stelmann Deli	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-962-9217	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Taco Bell - Yorktown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-245-9796	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
TCBY - Yorktown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-528-1111	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
The PUB	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-214-8600	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
The Winery at St. George	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	914-455-4272	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Trailside Cafe	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	914-302-7331	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-243-9100	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Yorktown Coach Diner	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-245-2191	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Yorktown Grille	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-352-6300	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
Yorktown Pizza & Pasta	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	914-962-0096	https://www.facebook.com/EdwindsDeli/
BUSINESSES					914-243-9608	https://www.asfinefoodsly.com
A&S Pork Store of JV					914-245-0225	http://www.absoluteflooring.com
Absolute Flooring of YTH					914-528-0030	http://www.acehardware.com
ACE Hardware					914-439-8104	https://www.advancedofficetech.com
Advanced Copier Technology	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	914-962-5778	http://www.albertjchapman.com/
Albert A. Chapman Agency					845-628-9026	https://allcountypestcontrol.com
All County Pest Control	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	914-930-8845	https://www.facebook.com/allseasonswineandspiritsny/
All Seasons Wine	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	914-275-6887	www.bruceaparr.com
APAR/PR	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	914-962-2500	https://www.atlantic-appliance.com/
Atlantic Appliance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	914-962-1234	https://www.berardischiro.com/
Berardis Family Chiropractic					914-907-2738	www.certapro.com/westchester
BH&G Rand Realty					914-245-2260	https://www.facebook.com/TheCleaningXChange/
Certo Pro Painters	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	914-243-2300	www.cohenfamilysmiles.com
Cleaning Exchange	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	914-245-2965	http://www.dastruckandauto.com/
Cohen Family Smiles	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	914-352-6127	https://www.dmlmortgage.com
DAS Auto					914-455-3700	https://www.franzoso.com
DML Mortgage					914-245-7575	http://www.franzoso.com
Elite Dental Studios					914-271-4572	https://www.freyersforist.com/
Franzoso Contracting	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	914-962-7484	https://fynelyne.com/
Freyers Flowers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	914-930-4537	www.hartelsautobody.com
Fyne Lyne Venture	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	914-962-5620	http://www.jcmracing.com/
Hartel's Auto Body	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	914-352-6688	www.kennyscarpetone.com
JCM Racing					914-490-7754	914-245-7500
Kenny's Carpet One					914-214-0101	https://www.lowes.com/store/NY-Yorktown/3360
Law Office of Sal Lagonia	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	914-245-2440	www.makerfragaedicostranzo.com
Lowes					914-962-4699	https://www.marshallalarm.com/
Maker Fraga&DiCostanzo	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	914-455-0976	www.mcarroofing.com
Marshall Alarms					914-714-2216	https://www.mcmagency.com/
MCA Roofing & Contracting					914-715-7245	http://www.moonlightmarine.net
MCM Agency, Inc.					914-693-3500	www.MVRagency.com
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Obituaries

Maria Messina

Maria Messina, a Croton-on-Hudson resident, died on Apr. 16. She was 96.

Messina was born June 6, 1923, to John and Louise Pfingstl on a small farm in Austria. She moved from Austria to the Bronx when she was six years old. Maria and her beloved husband, Thomas Messina, moved to Croton-on-Hudson from the Bronx in December 1959, where they raised their then 13-year-old son Richard.

Growing up, she worked in her grandparent's Austrian bakery; as an adult she loved to cook and bake. She did volunteer work and was especially touched by her time spent nurturing

babies at a local hospital. In recent years, she enjoyed attending Croton Caring Committee events and being an active member of the Croton Seniors and attending Mass at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church.

Messina is survived by her cherished son, Richard; nephew Ronnie Peterson and his wife, Eileen, and their children, Ava and Kevin; and nephew Frankie Peterson and his son, Alex. She was predeceased by her husband in January 1989 and by her brother, John F. Peterson.

She loved and was loved by many close friends and will be missed by all who knew her.

Edward Khuns Jr.

Edward A. Khuns Jr., a longtime Peekskill resident, died peacefully on Apr. 16 in his sleep due to natural causes. He was 88.

Khuns was born Apr. 28, 1931, in Ossining to Geraldine Newman Khuns and Edward Albert Khuns Sr. He attended the Ossining School District and Croton-Harmon High School. He was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1952, serving in both Germany and Korea as a section sergeant in charge of a machine gun platoon. He was on the front line when the truce was signed in July 1953.

Khuns worked for more than 20 years raising dogs in boarding and grooming kennels. In 1977, he was employed as a well-loved Peekskill School District custodian,

mostly at Peekskill Middle School, until his retirement in 1992.

He was married to the late Patricia Dullea Khuns of Croton-on-Hudson for 57 years. He is survived by five sons, Edward Khuns III (Heidi) of Poughquag, Stephen Khuns (Kathy) of Hopewell Junction, David Khuns (Jeanne) of Conway S.C., Russell Khuns of White Plains and Timothy Khuns (Annie) of Milton, N.Y.; 14 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Brenda Khuns Parent (David) of Greenwich and Beverly Khuns Cmero (Michael) of Carmel; and many nieces and nephews. His brother, Bobby, and sisters Carol Khuns and Joan Khuns Zellner (Howard) predeceased him.

Melvin Henning

Melvin (Mel) Henning, a Peekskill resident, died peacefully on Apr. 15 with his wife by his side. He was 93.

Henning was born Feb. 11, 1927, in Newburgh to Edward and Dorothy Lendrum Henning. He graduated from Newburgh Free Academy early to enlist in the Navy in February 1945. He became a hospital apprentice and was stationed at naval hospitals in Sampson, N.Y., Bainbridge, Md. and Philadelphia.

Upon discharge, he worked in the shoe business, managing Endicott Johnson stores in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He also worked at PediStep in Yorktown for many years. Henning later became employed by the Lakeland School District as a bus driver and custodian until his retirement in 1989.

In 1980, he married Mary Lou, who survives him. He is also survived by his son, Bob, of Austin, Texas; his three grandchildren, Jack, Caroline and Courtney, and their mother, Cathy, all of Austin; his brother, Ed, and his wife, Ginny, of Florida; and many nieces, nephews and close friends.

He was a parishioner of Assumption Church. He served as a volunteer fireman for many years in Peekskill and is a life member of the Columbian Engine Co. Two of his greatest accomplishments were being a devoted husband and a wonderful father. He always made time for everyone he met and gave them the focus of his attention. He will always be remembered for his kind heart, generosity, outstanding work ethic, quick wit, great sense of humor, wonderful smile and his ability to make people feel special.

Robert Mill Sr.

Robert M. Mill Sr., a lifelong Brewster resident, died on Apr. 17 at his home. He was 84.

Mill was born Oct. 17, 1935, to Andrew (Scotty) Mill and Frances (Wallace) Mill, and attended Garden Street School in Brewster. He married his loving wife, Faith (Snow) Mill, on Christmas Eve 1955 in Mahopac. Together, he and Faith started a well drilling business in 1960 – Mill Drilling, Inc. – and ran it successfully along with his brother, Thomas and sons Robert and Russell, until his retirement in 2014.

Mill was a devoted parishioner of his boyhood church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, having served for many years as warden of the vestry, head of building and

grounds and loudest hymn singer in the congregation. He served on the Board of Trustees at Putnam County Savings Bank and was a past president of the Old Southeast Cemetery Association.

He adored his grandchildren. He leaves behind his daughter, Taryn Bottge (Bill), and their children, Faith, Jillian, Jaclyn and Drew; his two sons, Russell Mill (Yvette), and their children, Lance, Gracie, Tyler, Brandon, Connor and Spencer, and Robert Mill Jr. and his children, Christina and Jenna; and his brothers, Donald of Poughquag, Thomas of Patterson and Gary Balfe of North Carolina. He was predeceased by his wife in 2009 and his brother, Andrew (Toot), and sister Frances (Sis) Barrett.

Kerri Ann Kennedy-Tompkins

Kerri Ann Kennedy-Tompkins, a longtime Continental Village resident in Garrison, died on Apr. 10. She was 48.

Kennedy-Tompkins was born Aug. 4, 1971, in Yonkers to Eileen (Kilduff) Kennedy and Paul T. Kennedy Sr. She graduated from Franciscan High School in 1989 and from Mercy College in 1993 and worked as a special education teacher for many years.

She was a breast cancer survivor and suffered with many illnesses as a result of it. She passed away due to complications of COVID-19. Due to the coronavirus, she was laid to rest in a private service on Apr. 15. There will be a memorial mass and celebration of her life at a later date.

Kennedy-Tompkins was predeceased by

her father in 2006. She is survived by her husband, Richard Tompkins, of Garrison, and her stepchildren, Mackenzie Tompkins and Adrian Tompkins, both of Apollo Beach, Fla., who she loved dearly. She is also survived by her mother; her brother, Paul T. Kennedy Jr., of Buchanan; her sister, Colleen Kennedy, of Garrison; and her loving nephew, Colin Kennedy, of Buchanan, who she loved "to the moon and back." She was also survived by many cousins, aunts, uncles and an endless list of friends.

Kennedy-Tompkins loved being with family and friends and was loved by all who knew her. She was known for her infectious laugh, her bright smile, kind and generous heart and her caring nature.

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Appreciation for Sanitation Crews, Part of a Hidden Workforce

By Sherrie Dulworth

Suburban Carting's operations manager spotted a sign that had suddenly appeared on its street corner the morning of Apr. 7. Its handmade red and blue lettering read, "Thank You Suburban Carting. Stay Safe."

As they drove into the Briarcliff Manor location to begin their day, Suburban's sanitation workers passed the sign and word quickly spread via e-mail to their remote team. The feeling among the 85 employees was surprise and gratitude.

"We were so appreciative that someone would do that," said Nicole Avallone, who is part of the management team at the family-owned and operated business.

Garbage disposal is often dirty, difficult and dangerous. It ranks fifth among civilian jobs for work-related deaths in the U.S. It is perhaps most glaringly obvious when it is left undone; yet, during ordinary times when the work gets done, it often goes unnoticed.

But an emerging silver lining from these extraordinary times may be that the efforts for workers who don't get much fanfare, like those in sanitation, is no longer obscured.

Georges Don Pierre, a sanitation worker with the City of White Plains, said residents have been



Georges Don Pierre, part of the White Plains sanitation crew. An already perilous job is even more dangerous with the emergence of the coronavirus.

more mindful and friendly since the start of the crisis. Don Pierre, a gregarious 31-year-old, has been with the city's Bureau of Sanitation for about five years. He described how some children, home from school, now run to the window to wave when the truck arrives and others hand motion to the crew to honk the horn.

Last Wednesday, while on the residential recycling route, a woman told him, "You are so appreciated. Thank you for your work." Recalling the interactions, Don Pierre said, "It makes me feel terrific."

Along with the mystery sign, Suburban Carting, which has residential and commercial services in Westchester and Putnam counties, has received other

acknowledgements. A customer e-mail read, "I want to thank everyone in your organization for continuing to pick up the trash weekly. Lord knows we have way more trash now that all our family members are home, but we are home and you are not. We appreciate you."

Laura Rosvold, general manager at City Carting's Somers office, echoed the increase in public appreciation. The company also has sanitation services in Westchester and Putnam.

"Some customers have called in or sent e-mails of thanks and others are going outside to personally thank the drivers," Rosvold said.

With some businesses closed and more people working from home, residential refuse and recycling has increased while commercial volume has gone down.

"We are seeing a lot of cardboard boxes. I guess people are getting more home deliveries and doing takeout," said Rosvold.

While White Plains, with about 60,000 residents, has stopped special bulk and metal pick-ups, there is still an increase in home volume. Don Pierre said there is more bulk debris perhaps due to home cleaning and sorting projects.

"People are putting a lot of stuff in the garbage," he said.

Like other essential workers,



SHERRIE DULWORTH PHOTOS

Crews at Suburban Carting in Briarcliff Manor were greeted earlier this month with a homemade sign that had been placed outside the company's headquarters. Gestures of heartfelt appreciation for sanitation workers locally have become increasingly commonplace during the pandemic.

sanitation crews have employed new safety precautions, including use of face masks. White Plains has set up staggered working hours with trucks leaving at different times to help with physical distancing. Some drivers take the truck to the beginning of the route with crew members driving their cars to the destination so they don't ride in the cab together.

Don Pierre changes out of his work clothes and wraps them in plastic liners provided by the city before he takes them home. If needed, he showers at the work facility before leaving.

"We are all extra cautious right

now," he said.

Don Pierre's wife has been working from home and his six-year-old son is home from school. His son doesn't understand why his father is not staying home with him and the family. Explaining that he is one of the essential workers, his son replied, "You're like a super-hero, huh?"

The Suburban Carting sign stayed on the street corner for about four days until it was pelted by rain. It now has a place of honor inside the garage and the drivers still see it when they arrive at work.

"It's a nice reminder," Avallone said.

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P'ville School District to Have Flat Tax Rate in 2020-21 Budget

By Abby Luby

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and the shuttering of businesses and schools, everyone has tightened their purse strings.

Last week, Pleasantville School District officials adjusted the proposed 2020-21 budget so property owners will see no increase in their tax rate next year.

"We are clearly in a situation that's an economic emergency," said Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter. "We feel it's fiscally prudent to do this now."

To keep the tax rate flat and reduce the levy, \$650,000 is being taken from the district's fund balance, said Assistant

Superintendent for Business Timothy Whipple. Previously, the 2020-21 draft budget had appropriated \$353,129 from fund balance. With the extra fund balance money, there would be about \$1.1 million remaining in the reserve fund, Whipple said.

Before revising the budget last Tuesday, district officials proposed a property tax levy of \$38,557,951, an increase of 1.329 percent from the current year. Because of the nearly \$300,000 being taken from fund balance, the levy increase now stands at .789 percent, which is \$1.1 million under the allowable limit. Total revenue in next year's budget is estimated at \$52,752,591.

"We are trying to be cognizant of what

everybody is going through by keeping taxes as flat as possible," said Board President Angela Vella. "This is the right time for us to utilize our reserve, more than in other years."

Pleasantville property owners whose assessments will be unchanged are expected to see no tax increase. Homeowners who have made upgrades that impact their property assessment will likely see a negligible increase in their school taxes.

Trustees also mentioned that Pleasantville has seen growth in the last year, which has contributed toward keeping the tax rate flat next year.

"I think we are very well positioned

(financially) for the next two to three years," said Whipple. "We weaned off using the fund balance over the last six or seven years by truly balancing our expenses and revenues that has allowed us to weather the storm like of a pandemic magnitude we're now in."

There have been no substantive changes in the proposed budget. About two months ago, there were eight new positions added to next year's spending plan, including a psychologist, a third-grade teacher, a teaching assistant, a computer aide in the technology department and four additional special education aides who work individually with students with disabilities.

Fox-Alter last week expressed her gratitude to the board during the budget process state revenues plummet, which could result in drastic cutbacks in state education funding. Last week, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said unless the state receives significant federal aid, there could be as much as a 20 percent cut in education than what was approved earlier this month in the Fiscal Year 2021 state budget.

"I'd like to thank the board for their fiscal stewardship in this emergency," Fox-Alter said. "This has allowed us to make a decision which is best for the taxpayers and our students."

No date has been set for the rescheduled budget vote and school board elections. Cuomo issued an executive order on Mar. 29 moving the vote to sometime in June.



Sign of Spring?

Most days it hasn't felt too much like spring, whether it's chilly temperatures or the need to stay inside as much as possible. However, there was one welcome sign of the season early last Friday evening, with the appearance of an ice cream truck outside Wood & Fire Pizza on Marble Avenue in Pleasantville.

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First of Two Remaining Nuclear Reactors to Shut Down at Indian Point

By Rick Pezzullo

Without any scheduled fanfare, one of the two operating nuclear power reactors at Indian Point in Buchanan will permanently shut down this Thursday.

Unit 2 has been generating power for Westchester County and New York City since 1974. Unit 3, which came on board in 1976, is scheduled to stop operating in April 2021. Unit 1 has been offline since 1974.

In January 2017, Entergy, which had purchased the Indian Point nuclear power plants in 2000, announced, to the complete surprise of local leaders, its plan for the shutdown of Indian Point by Apr. 30, 2021, as part of a settlement with New York State and Riverkeeper.

Since that time, local leaders have been brainstorming to soften the financial hit that municipalities, the Hendrick Hudson School District and other entities will suffer after the \$32 million revenue stream from Indian Point runs dry.

Hendrick Hudson is preparing for the largest jolt – \$24 million – which represents 33 percent of its annual budget. The Village of Buchanan is set to lose \$4 million, or 46 percent, of its budget. The Town of Cortlandt will experience an \$800,000 shortfall, Westchester County \$4 million, the Verplanck Fire District \$372,703 (64 percent of its budget) and the Hendrick Hudson Free Library \$394,110 (28 percent of its budget).

An estimated 1,100 permanent jobs will also be lost at the 240-acre site, although

some workers may be retained during the decommissioning process.

Entergy and Holtec submitted a license transfer application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Nov. 21, 2019. That would result in a change in the plant's ownership to Holtec once Indian Point is completely shut down next year. Holtec would then carry out all of the activities to decommission the plant, store the spent nuclear fuel and restore the site to its original condition. Decommissioning is expected to take about 15 years.

Federal, state, county and local officials have voiced concerns about whether Holtec has sufficient resources to safely complete decommissioning. Holtec's safety measures during the decommissioning, whether or not money in the Decommissioning Trust Fund is adequate to support the cost, has been under scrutiny regarding the long-term health, safety and environmental monitoring on the site.

Earlier this month, Rep. Nita M. Lowey (D-Harrison), chair of the House Appropriations Committee, said a recent report by the NRC Indian Point Expert Evaluation Team reflects concerns she and her constituents raised starting in October 2015. It also substantiates many of the claims made in the NRC Inspector General's February 2020 inquiry.

The Expert Evaluation Team's report on the concerns pertaining to the Algonquin Incremental Market pipeline's proximity to Indian Point found that Entergy and the NRC



An aerial photo of Indian Point nuclear power plant. After Thursday, there will be one reactor in operation.

made "optimistic assumptions" in analyzing the risk of the natural gas transmission pipeline. The team concluded the reactors would remain safe even if the pipeline were to rupture.

The report also found that Entergy should do further analysis and that NRC processes and practices hindered cooperation and communication between and among agencies.

"With the spread of the coronavirus

throughout the Lower Hudson Valley, our community is focused on protecting our loved ones and saving lives," said Lowey. "We can do that while continuing to ensure all operations and projects related to Indian Point Energy Center and its decommissioning do not put the surrounding communities at risk. I hope the past five years have taught the NRC that it should listen to stakeholders, because the Indian Point community's concerns were valid."

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Letters to the Editor

Putnam County Leadership Has Been Absent During Crisis

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell's letter ("Putnam County Has Stepped Up to Address Residents' Needs During Crisis," Apr. 21-27) leaves me even more concerned for our county. Cutting staff by 50 percent is old news at this point and can't be used to fill space in an editorial. The daily briefings with the county Health Department, which by the way, Odell doesn't attend, are only a litany of complaints and a rundown of who is sick and who has died.

I searched and got more information in a 10-minute phone call with Nuvance Health than I did in three weeks of attending the morning calls. The Commissioner of Health, Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, didn't even know that there was a testing site at Dutchess Stadium. The commissioner should be fired tomorrow.

As for the county's delayed funding of the effort, the results speak for themselves: weeks of unprotected workers and families wondering what to do about food and

medicine. There is still no county plan for long-term assistance to families in need. To rely on the United Way is fine, but there has been only one grocery pickup to date. Last I checked, families eat each day.

And for protecting our most vulnerable, seniors and the health compromised, nothing. It has been left to the towns to come up with plans and disseminate the information and supplies. To date, Philipstown has not received a single item from Putnam County. This is not to say that our great Legislator Nancy Montgomery has let this hamper her efforts. Nancy has delivered hundreds of masks, actionable information and has been on the front line since the start of the outbreak.

With no help from the county, the Town of Philipstown has been left to fill the void. We have given out \$75,000 in food and medical supplies along with mask-making material. We have also sent food assistance funding to the

towns of Carmel and Beacon and Newburgh. All this is possible through a generous private donation. We will continue to seek private and public funds. More importantly, we will continue to take care of our residents.

As has been the case since the formation of the county government, Philipstown has been ignored again. But this time it's not just Philipstown, it's the entire county. The lack of leadership at the top level of county government has caused real suffering. I fear for not only the residents of Putnam County but county employees who are going to work each day without protective equipment.

This is not about politics. It's about facts. From all that I have seen and heard, the county executive's absence and lack of leadership has and will continue to cause more pain for all the residents of Putnam County.

Richard Shea
Philipstown Supervisor

Politics and a Pandemic: An Old Veteran's Point of View

The important questions for all are: How long should the fear of possible illness or death stop us from living? What if we have a second wave of COVID-19? When should we be able to start making our own safe decisions as Americans?

Now from the politician's view with regard to the above questions, how will I be judged after taking the risk of making the call to action or inaction. It reminds me of one of my favorite sayings "Remember the Turtle." The turtle never makes any progress unless it sticks its neck out.

Of course, there are always individuals in our country that try to use a crisis for either political or personnel gain. The only thought on government officials' minds should be

solving the immediate problem, not getting funds for pet projects that have nothing to do with this goal. I'm all for the Kennedy Center but my local small businesses are going belly up because some in our government are the Neros in our society, fiddling while we are in disaster mode. In the interest of full disclosure, this particular veteran is also a small business owner (beginning his company's 40th and most challenging year).

Now let's look at this from another point of view. It's Christmas Eve 1776 in a camp at a place called Valley Forge. You have been living in some of the worst conditions and weather since you volunteered for the military. Now your general is asking you to cross an icy river to fight a battle against a

seasoned, more experienced larger force the next day in a place called Trenton. Your first thought is, "What is he nuts?" Has the cold gotten to him? From his point of view, he knows if they do not get out and start doing something positive, they will lose something more important – the will to win. So they all get into the boats and made history.

Now the battle we are in is against an unseen enemy and our weapons are masks, wipes, distancing and common sense. It is time we allow free Americans to start using these weapons to get on with life.

Al Avitabile
Yorktown

Pointing Fingers, Rather Than Proposing Solutions, is Counterproductive

Regarding last week's letter to the editor by Nicholas Kuvach (President Trump's Incompetence Has Made Crisis Immeasurably Worse), is attacking someone else, Donald Trump in this case, more self-aggrandizement and not really a substitute for our actually supporting the things we do feel are the solution or

proper goals in a problematic situation?

I understand having leaders – it's how we know and advertise just who we ourselves are, properly so – but get behind what you do support! Pointing fingers at someone else's failures and limitations tends to come off as blaming someone else for the things we don't like and is not a

solution, instead of actually knowing and supporting who we are and what it is we stand for?

Andrew Campbell
Mahopac Falls

Westchester's CSEA Employees Have Soldiered on Through Pandemic

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Every day, 3,000 CSEA Unit 9200 Westchester County employees report to work. Since this pandemic started, they have not taken a day off. Whether they are working from home or reporting to an alternate work location, they have one priority – to continue to provide the vital services that Westchester County residents are counting on.

At this time, more and more of our residents require services. The CSEA Westchester County employees continue to serve our communities. They do this with concerns about their health, and the health of their families, but they remain

undeterred in doing their jobs with pride and professionalism. They have gone above and beyond to be creative and innovative as the county adapts to this devastating situation, and CSEA Westchester County employees have done all of this because they care, and without receiving any fanfare or accolades.

During an unprecedented time, such as this, it is good to reflect on the satisfaction they receive through understanding county services and the role they play in providing excellent quality of life in Westchester County.

We continue to keep all county residents in our thoughts and prayers. Together we will get through this, and every day CSEA

Unit 9200 Westchester County employees continue to work for you, Westchester County.

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Fundraising Campaign to Bring Children's Books to Needy Families

By Martin Wilbur

The Chappaqua Children's Book Festival has become one of the most highly anticipated events for children and their families in Westchester.

But the festival's founder, Dawn Greenberg, doesn't limit her dedication to promoting children's literacy to one day a year.

The festival, along with End Book Deserts and One Book Westchester, another organization that Greenberg is part of, has launched a new campaign called Books in Hand. Its mission is to get books to children living in underserved Westchester communities, particularly when kids have been out of school for nearly a month and a half and the early reviews on remote learning have been uneven at best.

Greenberg said that some of the unexpected idle time in the early days of the coronavirus shutdown spawned this latest idea.

"For a few weeks, I was sort of paralyzed, and then I started thinking – how could we do what we do, which is trying to connect kids with books and start to think about where the real pockets of need are in our county," she said.



The Chappaqua Children's Book Festival is partnering on a fundraising campaign with two other organizations and Barnes & Noble to bring books to children in underserved communities.

The Books in Hand campaign aims to raise money through a GoFundMe site to put together 5,000 packets of age-appropriate books for children in grades K-12 in communities of need. A packet would provide five books to each child in order to offer some variety, since not every youngster is going to like every book that they receive, Greenberg said.

Initially, Greenberg said, the effort is to concentrate on Mount Vernon and White Plains with hopes to expand to Ossining, Yonkers and other communities that could use the help.

Barnes & Noble and local children's



could help stem the "summer slide," when children who often don't read during the more than two months away from school tend to regress when they return in the fall.

For more information and to donate to the Books in Hand Program, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/books-in-hands-in-westchester-county>.

Festival Plans Continue

Greenberg and the other organizers of the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival are scheduled to hold this year's event on Saturday, Oct. 3 on the grounds of Robert E. Bell Middle School in Chappaqua.

However, with so many unknowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult at this point to gauge whether it will be held, postponed or conducted with social distancing provisions, Greenberg said.

She said a decision would be made by July 1, since about three months of lead time will be needed to pull the festival together.

"We want to keep our options open and certainly we would follow the best advice," Greenberg said. "We're looking at a layout that's more expansive that would put maybe each author under an umbrella."

book authors are also helping to deliver the books, hopefully starting by mid-May, Greenberg said. The packets will be included in families' weekly grocery packs through agencies and pantries.

With many families preoccupied with putting food on the table and keeping a roof over their heads, children's books could be considered a luxury.

"We all hear these stories about families struggling today," Greenberg said. "I really hope we can fulfill this initiative and do even more."

Greenberg said even if children's educational needs are being met, the books

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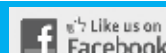
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In a Pandemic, There is Much Time to Be Neat at Home

When that new manager of my real estate office came on board, she introduced herself to the agents as a "neatnik" and rated applause for the revelation. Why is that, I wondered?

Within a short period of time, I knew, as all of us were able to more easily access the information and forms we needed for all of our transactions.

I also took the opportunity to remind myself of my lifelong struggle to be a neatnik at home, believing that being neat translates into being organized, and that in turn translates into success at better living, both at work and at home.

While psychologists might classify personality types in two basic categories, introverts and extraverts, as an observer of home life, I would distinguish the two basic personalities as neatniks and "messy-niks," again with variations in the middle where I uncomfortably reside.

Are very neat people born that way or do they practice the skill of orderliness until they get it right?

From my own experience with friends and in my dealings in real



By Bill Primavera

estate, exploring many homes and how they are kept by their owners, I am convinced that neatness is indeed innate in some people with the way their brains are wired, but not in others.

Never knowing it until I was on my own, I discovered that my mother was a neatnik, though at that time, the word had not yet been invented. She was the product of her time. She didn't work outside the home, devoting her high energy level to being a homemaker who raised her children, washed and ironed all the clothes, grew and canned her own tomatoes, cooked the meals and cleaned the house until the surfaces of our countertops, our kitchen table oilcloth and linoleum floors wore out.

I thought everybody was well-organized at home, but from the time I got my first apartment while in college, and in a couple of bachelor pads in New York, my home life was a constant struggle to get my place to have some semblance of order.

When I learned in Psychology Today that extreme neatness is not necessarily a good thing and

could cross the line into Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, I thought, well, there's no chance that could happen to me.

But luckily, I fell in love with a woman before I learned that she was the personification of neat. I discovered it when we set up our first apartment, having just returned from our honeymoon. The evidence was the arrangement of the one long linear closet in our studio apartment.

We each claimed one half of the closet (I needed as much space as she because I too liked clothes), and with the louver doors open, it looked like a bipolar person lived there. Her side was organized by season and color, by dresses, jackets, tops and skirts. My side was more a shotgun approach with everything helter-skelter; wherever the hanger happened to fall, interspersing suits, sports jackets, slacks and shirts. While she commented on the difference and tried to counsel me on how best to organize my side, she let me transition slowly from being a messy bachelor.

When we graduated to a larger house where we both had our own dressing rooms, she left me pretty much to my own devices in keeping things neat and organized in my closet. I do try my best, but any observer looking in her dressing room and in mine would think they



are in different households, if not on different planets.

Today, my wife excels in keeping a five-bedroom house perfectly neat, with meritorious performance in the kitchen where every meal is prepared almost magically with never a used knife, spoon, pot or plate in sight for more than a few seconds. In the wink of an eye, everything is placed in the dishwasher, and counters are always spotlessly clean. I sometimes feel guilty that I don't do more in that vein, but I make up a feeble but true excuse that I don't know where everything belongs.

The down side to living with a neatnik is the litany of reminders that the messy-nik gets to do his fair share, like hanging the towels the right way after a shower and

to put the toilet seat down, which for the past five years or so, I've remembered to do. I consider that a real sign that I'm on the road to recovery. Give me another 50 years or so and I may get to where I need to be.

In the meantime, I take comfort in the commonly held belief that living in a healthy mental state involves seeking progress, not perfection.

Bill Primavera is a writer and public relations practitioner (www.PrimaveraPR.com) who also is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate (www.raveis.com). To engage the marketing and real estate services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



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Chappaqua Woman and Dad Create a Jewel of a Fundraiser

By Ariel Markowski

Chappaqua resident Samantha Auburn Levine was born at Mount Sinai Hospital in 1987. More than three decades later, she is giving back to the hospital that helped give her life.

Auburn Jewelry, which Levine established in 2013, has recently begun to sell pendants etched with an antibody-shaped design to raise money for research at Mount Sinai. The hospital also happens to be where her father, Dr. Adam Levine, has worked as an anesthesiologist for more than 30 years.

Inspired by her father, Levine decided to take action.

"I couldn't just sit by and do nothing while the world is in shambles," said the 2005 Horace Greeley High School graduate. "Auburn Jewelry was founded on the grounds of giving back where we can and this is just another example of how we're doing that."

The process began with the pendant's design. Levine and her father created four choices, which were reviewed by an Instagram audience. Now that a style has been selected, the sterling silver charms are available for pre-order in two color schemes: silver and navy enamel with rhodium and black and gold with 14-karat



Levine's pendants, containing an antibody-shaped design, are available for pre-order in silver and navy and black and gold.

gold vermeil.

Starting at \$48, Levine aims to raise at least \$1,000 for antibody research. As of Friday, \$850 has been raised within two weeks, with 60 percent of the profits going to Mount Sinai.

The money raised by the sale of the pendants will go toward research determining whether transfusing plasma containing COVID-19 antibodies combats the disease. Mount Sinai is among the first hospitals in the world to detect COVID-19 antibodies in the blood.

"They are beautifully handcrafted in the United States, just like the rest of the Auburn Jewelry collection," noted Levine, who is engaged to fellow Greeley graduate Brandon Sultanik.

The process has reinforced the bond between Levine and her father.

"My dad is my favorite person in the whole world," she said. "My mom likes to say my dad and I are the same person. We have the same sense of humor and the same love of helping people."

The fundraiser has also served as a great way to marry two of Levine's passions: creating jewelry and supporting meaningful causes.

"I felt so helpless stuck at home, quarantining," she said. "My dad and I designed these necklaces together and I'm so happy that I'm able to do my small part to help."

As for Levine's father, he couldn't be prouder.

"We have always been close and she has always had a social (conscience), developing unique pieces and giving back to the community," Levine said. "What father wouldn't be proud?"

To order an antibody charm, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ydda6xtm>. For more information about Auburn's Jewelry, visit <http://www.auburnjewelry.com/>



Chappaqua resident Samantha Auburn Levine, creator of Auburn Jewelry, with one of the pendants she designed with her father to raise money for COVID-19 antibody research at Mount Sinai Hospital.

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WHAT THE SHUTDOWN AND DECOMMISSIONING OF INDIAN POINT ENERGY CENTER WILL MEAN FOR OUR AREA.

The nuclear power plants at Indian Point have powered New York City and Westchester County for nearly 60 years. Now, due to challenging economic conditions and an agreement with the state of New York, Indian Point will stop generating electricity and permanently shut down by April 2021.

After shutdown Indian Point will transition to decommissioning, a federally-regulated process that will ultimately return the land to a new productive use. Entergy has taken the first step by selecting a leading decommissioning company as our partner, Holtec International.

Here are a few things New Yorkers should know about the Holtec plan:

Decades Sooner — With Holtec, decommissioning will begin immediately, allowing the site to be repurposed as much as 40 years sooner than if Entergy were to remain the owner of Indian Point. Holtec's plan calls for completion of major decommissioning activities by the 2030s, decades sooner than it would take Entergy to complete decommissioning.

Decommissioning Expertise — Holtec and its expert team have decades of experience managing large decommissioning projects around the world.

Employee Retention — Holtec will begin the decommissioning process promptly upon taking ownership and will provide job opportunities for more than 300 of our current employees who want to remain in the region and continue to work at the site.

Spent Fuel Management — Holtec is the global leader in spent nuclear fuel storage technology and transport. Holtec will transfer all of Indian Point's spent nuclear fuel to secure canisters designed to withstand natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, and other events within about three years of shutdown.

As we work toward an orderly shutdown, safety remains our top priority. Indian Point is ranked in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's top column for safety and we fully intend to continue our strong safety record over our final months of operation.

The NRC will regulate decommissioning at Indian Point and a citizen's advisory board is already in place. As of today, more than 34 U.S. nuclear plants have safely completed decommissioning or are in the process of doing so. To learn more about Holtec's plan for prompt decommissioning, visit:

www.indianpointdecommissioning.com
www.holtecinternational.com
www.hdi-decom.com

Indian Point Energy Center



Local Residents Heeding Call to Unite the World at Critical Time

By Lindsay Emery

A shared moment of crisis around the globe was the impetus for two Chappaqua residents to bring dozens of participants and untold viewers a ray of hope and humanity.

On Friday evening and stretching into Saturday, The Call to Unite will be a 24-hour, worldwide streaming event that will launch a new nonprofit called Unite.

Jon Klein and Rob Shepardson have helped put the event together through many 20-hour days on Zoom. More than 175 participants will be featured, with appearances by celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Yo-Yo Ma and T.D. Jakes, and former presidents.

Its mission is to address how people are coping with isolation, loneliness, fear and anxiety in the coronavirus crisis, said Shepardson, a co-founder of SS+K, a firm that blends strategy and sociocultural trends that inspire action and change.

Unite was created by Tim Shriver, the longtime chair and CEO of the Special Olympics, who created the nonprofit to spur projects that bridge political lines and cultural differences to bring people together and work for a common purpose, said Klein, co-founder of TAPP Media. Shriver's idea was to launch United's first project during the pandemic to bring people together.

"The whole idea being, wouldn't it be great to help people not only get through this period but use this period to mark the beginning of a new way of working together

with one another," Klein said.

Spiritual and inspirational figures from around the world will share insights, teachings, a dance, or even a game that parents can play with their children to help them learn while homeschooling. There will be lesser-known participants who will also contribute.

"It's not so much a TV show, it's a companion to whatever else you're doing," Klein said.

Klein is familiar with producing large-scale events, having worked at CNN and CBS. With the advancement of streaming technology, an event of this size has become attainable.

"Everybody's gotten used to the idea of propping up their camera and broadcasting to the world, so it's as if you've got camera crews in the palms of everybody's hands in the world," Klein said. "So pulling something off like this was really just going to be a matter of our imagination and letting our imaginations run wild."

He gathered colleagues from CNN and others from Chappaqua, including Shepardson, to assist in The Call to Unite. The coordination means that Klein and his team – about 100 people are working on various aspects of the event – are meeting around the clock. Some of the program will be pre-taped and edited while other parts will be shown live.

"You need sophisticated technology to take in all of those Zoom feeds, record them or take them in live and turn them around,



MARK KAMINSKY PHOTO

Jon Klein, left, and Rob Shepardson, the two organizers for this weekend's Call to Unite worldwide streaming event that will help bring together the world's population in a time of need.

and do one giant Zoom call to the world," Klein said.

Along with the live and pre-recorded segments, the audience will be asked to contribute to the programming. Viewers may share common tasks, such as washing hands or tucking your children into bed.

"It's really something that we're kind of co-creating with the audience because we're asking people to submit their own thoughts and reflections about what they're watching and also their photographs as the

sun rises where they are," Klein said. "We want to show the sort of common humanity that we all have."

Shepardson said since the pandemic is something that no one today has lived through before, it's quite disorienting. Everyone has an issue that they're dealing with and The Call to Unite will allow people to come together and fill a void, he said.

"The other is that it really will serve as a clearing house for opportunities for people

continued on page 26



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Alternatives to Consider to Get Your Fill of Good Food

By Morris Gut

There is an expanding list of alternative shopping venues opening to the public across Westchester and Putnam counties during the coronavirus crisis. Here are some options.

Ace Endico, Brewster

Ace Endico, a major wholesale food supplier and distributor to the restaurant industry, has been gaining more attention from the general public in recent weeks. Ace Endico Marketplace accepts retail customers at their headquarters in Brewster, just off I-84. Their smaller outlet is in Mount Vernon.

It was a beautiful day and we just had to get out for a while. We took a drive north on I-684 with the onset of spring in full display. It turned out to be a fruitful trip.

The retail marketplace is on the side of Ace Endico's huge facility and offers plenty of parking. Once inside, we started combing the aisles. They were well-stocked with assorted merchandise from fruit and produce, meats and fish, frozen foods, paper goods, gourmet items, kitchen supplies and many items packaged in large quantities for wholesale buyers.

There were plenty of goods sold in smaller quantities. You could pick your own apples or potatoes, for example.

The best part, most prices were very reasonable when compared to mainstream markets. By the time we got to check out, we had filled our cart with more than we had anticipated, and that was okay. Some spur-of-the-moment stuff had found its way in.

As an extra surprise, William Endico, one of the company founders, was on sight and we had a chance to chat. We had met years earlier when Ace Endico was in Elmsford.



You can shop for a wide variety of delicious food items at Ace Endico in Brewster.

A few days later we visited Ace Endico's Mount Vernon outlet. It does not stock as much as the Brewster marketplace, but we did leave with a good price on extra-large eggs and flour, which have been hard to come by lately. Ace Endico offers home delivery for a \$200 minimum.

Ace Endico is located at 80 International Blvd. in Brewster and 188 W. Lincoln Ave. in Mount Vernon. The Brewster location can be reached at 914-347-3131 and the Mount Vernon location at 914-699-5592 or visit www.aceendicotogo.com.

Restaurant Depot, Mount Vernon

We visited Restaurant Depot in Mount Vernon during the week and it was easy to register for a temporary pass. Restaurant Depot is the big-box equivalent of Costco for the restaurant trade.

It has opened to the general public for the first time in its history during the COVID-19 crisis. We explored the entire warehouse from the refrigerated area to the culinary supplies, and the aisles were stocked to the hilt. There was constant re-stocking going on everywhere. Walk through at your own risk with all the moving loading trucks in action. It was a flurry of activity.

Most items are sold in very large quantities, as they would be for the wholesale trade. It may be too much for the average consumer. But if you have a large family or you form a group of friends and neighbors with plenty of storage space, it may work out well. Shelves were lined with signs highlighting items that could be broken up into smaller quantities, and those that could not, along with prices.

Restaurant Depot is located 650 S. Columbus Ave. in Mount Vernon and at 305 S. Regent St. in Port Chester. The Mount Vernon location can be reached at 914-665-6868 and the Port Chester location at 914-935-0220 or visit www.restaurantdepot.com.

Hilltop Hanover Farm Stand, Yorktown Heights

Hilltop Hanover in Yorktown Heights



The delicious and much sought-after Swedish meatballs from IKEA.

is a more than 200-year-old working farm that operates as a crop farm and environmental education center under the auspices of Westchester County.

Seasonal crops are for sale at its on-site stand and online store. The website lists the weekly harvest for sale with pricing. You can order curbside pick-up during the week from Tuesday at 4 p.m. to Thursday at 4 p.m. Pick-up is on Friday and Saturday after 1 p.m. You may designate which day you plan to arrive.

Farm stand hours are Fridays 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 1 to 4 p.m. We were told the first week sold out quickly, so get your orders in early.

Hilltop Hanover Farm is located at 1271 Hanover St. in Yorktown Heights. 914-962-2368 or visit www.hilltophanoverfarm.org.

IKEA's Swedish Meatballs Recipe

IKEA is closed due to COVID-19, but the company recently released the recipe for home cooks, and it has caused quite a stir. What is it about those signature Swedish meatballs from IKEA that makes them so addictive? They have attracted legions of fans all over the world, I guess, ever since IKEA created its big-box furnishing stores and sold them out of in-store restaurants.

My kids went on a shopping trip to IKEA in New Jersey last year and did not leave until they sat down for some meatballs. They stocked up on frozen meatballs to bring home, too.

At a recent party in Milford, Conn., the hostess offered platters of IKEA Swedish meatballs to guests as part of her buffet. The meatballs, with their creamy coating, were a big delicious hit. I lingered over one such platter a bit too long, I'm afraid, and had to apologize for hogging the fare – much to the delight of all around.

For more info, visit IKEA's Swedish Market online at www.ikea.com. For the recipe, visit www.cnn.com/2020/04/20/us/ikea-meatball-recipe-trnd/index.html.

Vincent's Meat Market Delivers

Since 1954, Vincent's Meat Market on Arthur Avenue in the Bronx has evolved



The Restaurant Depot warehouse in Mount Vernon. The wholesale restaurant merchandise comes in large quantities but could be worth it if you have a large family or shopping with friends or neighbors.

into more than a neighborhood butcher shop. The DeLuca family now offers a wide variety of meats, pork, chicken, veal, sausage, bacon, game, cheese and specially prepared meat dishes like osso buco and braciola to patrons throughout the New York metro area.

They will ship your specially-packaged vacuum-sealed order overnight by FedEx right to your door. There is free delivery for orders of \$100 or more. There is also on-site pick up when ordered in advance at the counter.

Vincent's Meat Market is located at 2374 Arthur Ave. in the Bronx. 718-303-0093 or visit www.vincentsmeatmarket.com.

Joe Migliucci of Mario's

It is with great sadness to report that longtime Westchester resident and proprietor and patriarch of Mario's Restaurant on Arthur Avenue, Joseph Migliucci, died of complications from COVID-19 at White Plains Hospital. He was 81.

Migliucci was a longtime friend and consummate host, the "heart and soul" of Arthur Avenue. To many, he was known as Papa Joe. Last year, he presided over the 100th anniversary of Mario's, which drew attention from the restaurant community and the media throughout the metropolitan area.

Over the years, he hosted patrons from all over the country. He was always ready to greet you with a big handshake and a smile. Our condolences to his family, his wife Barbara, his sons and daughter Regina. We hope you can carry on Joe's legacy.

Stay safe.

Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at 914-235-6591 or at gutreaactions@optonline.net.



Restaurateur and Arthur Avenue legend Joe Migliucci lost his battle with the coronavirus.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Girl Scouts Cookie Sale an Online Experience This Year

By Martin Wilbur

This is the time of year when those who enjoy the delicious assortment of Girl Scout cookies can usually find a local troop or scout and get their fill of the sweet treats.

It's may seem a lot more difficult this year with the stay-at-home order coming during the heart of the cookie-selling season.

But if you need your fix of Samoas, Thin Mints or Tagalongs, there's an easy way to get them into your cupboard and cookie jar or send to someone else.

This year, the cookie sale has become

a digital experience. For the more than 13,700 Girl Scouts who are part of the roughly 1,800 troops in the seven-county Heart of the Hudson council, that means selling the cookies exclusively online following a more conventional opening weekend.

Monica Bourgie, chief development officer for the council, said many of the scouts have opened virtual cookie booths for the public to visit and buy their favorite flavors for themselves, friends or family.

This year, many of the sales have been for the frontline healthcare workers and first responders who have put themselves on the line during the coronavirus outbreak, she said.

"It really is a feel-good for people," Bourgie said of the cookie drive. "I mean, people really do feel good when they get Girl Scout cookies and I think everybody can use a little bit of that right now."

Not only do the cookies taste good, but the sales help the Girl Scouts raise funds for their activities throughout the year.

However, this year has been particularly challenging, Bourgie said. While tens of thousands of cookies boxes are bought each year, since the coronavirus shutdown forced the sale to go online, the council's troops have sold an average of about 1,000 boxes a day.

That sounds like a healthy total but considering that the scouts had more than 175,000 boxes to sell, the totals are lagging previous years.



Tens of thousands of boxes of cookies are usually sold by the Girl Scouts every spring but this has been an unusual year with the coronavirus pandemic. The health crisis has forced the sale to go entirely online.

In all likelihood, the sales will be extended this year well into June, Bourgie said.

Cookies can be purchased online for donation to local frontline workers by visiting <https://www.girlscoutshh.org/en/cookies/about-girl-scout-cookies.html>.

You can go to the cookie website page,

locate the Cookie Finder and enter your zip code. Then a visitor will be directed to the Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson Digital Cookie order page. Visitors can purchase cookies to be shipped to themselves or donate cookies that will be allocated and delivered through a combination of efforts by Girl Scouts across the council.

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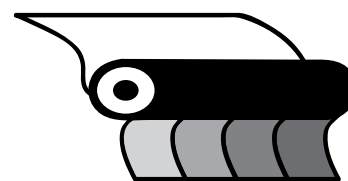
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Cuomo Order to Allow Westchester Taxpayers Penalty-Free Extension

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester property taxpayers facing financial hardship will have until July 15 to pay their county tax bill without penalties if their town agrees to allow late payments.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued an executive order for Westchester County last Tuesday that would assist taxpayers because of the economic shutdown.

County Executive George Latimer said the order permits him to negotiate with officials from participating municipalities a lower portion of a town's tax payment to the county by May 25. Currently, towns are required to pay 60 percent of the money

owed to the county by that deadline.

Participation by any town is voluntary, Latimer stressed.

"The benefit that we're giving out is for the little guy, the guy in the middle, the person who lost their job or lost their business income and now faces an Apr. 30 deadline of property taxes and can't come up with a lump sum given their circumstances, and that is something we feel is important," Latimer said.

There are eligibility guidelines that a taxpayer must meet in order to take advantage of the penalty-free extension. Individuals must be eligible for the STAR program, have income under \$250,000 and

show they have suffered significant income loss as a result of COVID-19.

Property owners who pay their mortgage and property taxes through an escrow account will not be eligible for the benefit.

Only businesses with annual revenues of less than \$1 million can participate, Latimer said.

The Apr. 21 announcement of the executive order came four days after the Board of Legislators approved significantly reduced penalties for those who don't pay their property tax bills in full by Apr. 30. Lawmakers agreed that taxpayers who wait until May would face a 0.5 percent penalty instead of 2 percent and a 1 percent penalty

instead of 5 percent from June 1 to July 15.

That measure ran counter to Latimer's original proposal earlier this month to have no penalties imposed until July 15. However, a contingent of supervisors argued that they would not have enough money to operate their towns and risked having taxpayers who are able to pay their bills delay their payments for up to two and a half months, further reducing their cash flow.

At the time, there was also no provision for the towns to reduce their tax obligation to the county.

At least one supervisor applauded last week's news. Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater, who pushed for the relief for those financially impacted nearly a month ago, said the town will participate because helping those in need makes sense.

"Having heard from many concerned taxpayers who are out of work and facing financial hardships, this is simply the right thing to do," Slater said.

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), who also pushed for relief for taxpayers, agreed that it will help many residents throughout the county.

"For weeks I have been advocating to provide relief to taxpayers whose payments are coming due at a time when so many are struggling," Buchwald said. "As a tax attorney, I have always believed in standing up for taxpayers and this executive order helps Westchester residents who have lost their jobs or been forced to shut down their businesses."

Bronx Man Charged in High-Speed Chase, Crash of Stolen Car

By Lindsay Emery

A Bronx man has been charged for leading a Putnam County Sheriff's deputy on a high-speed chase up the Taconic Parkway earlier this month in a stolen vehicle before crashing the car in Dutchess County.

Brandon Scott Cohn, 27, faces two felonies, first-degree reckless endangerment and third-degree criminal possession of stolen property, as well as the misdemeanor charges of third-degree unlawful fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle and reckless driving. He was also slapped with various vehicle and traffic law charges.

Cohn, who was uninjured in the crash, was arraigned and subsequently released to

appear in court at a later date. A passenger in the stolen car, 27-year-old Toniann Orichello, sustained minor injuries. She was issued an appearance ticket on an unspecified charge.

Police said on Apr. 8, Deputy Amanda Collier was on patrol in the Town of Putnam Valley when she received notification that a stolen vehicle, a 2006 grey Acura, was traveling northbound on the Taconic Parkway. The notification to law enforcement agencies was generated by a license plate reader.

Eight minutes after positioning herself on the Taconic overpass at Bryant Pond Road, Collier spotted the stolen vehicle and entered the northbound parkway. She confirmed the license plate and vehicle was consistent with what was broadcast in the alert.

Collier activated her lights and siren in hopes of pulling over the vehicle, police said. The driver started to slow down, but then moved to the left lane and sped away, recklessly operating the vehicle at high speed, according to the Sheriff's Department.

Police said that Cohn exited the parkway onto I-84, then while attempting to get off at the Ludingtonville Road exit, the vehicle went through the grass, struck the guardrail and flipped three times, landing in the right eastbound lane of I-84.

The owner of the vehicle, a 59-year-old Bronx woman, was notified by the Sheriff's Department and advised how to proceed with the accident report and to contact her insurance company.

THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

Stay Active. Self-isolating at home can be a challenge. It is advised to stay physically active while we stay at home. But it is also important to stay mentally active as well these days. Hopefully this week's vocabulary quiz will help to keep your mind in shape. These are trying times, but remember, we're all in this together.

1. **euphoria** (n.)

A) a sense of well-being

B) artificial elegance

C) interpretation of myths
2. **disport** (v.)

A) to twist out of shape

B) frolic

C) put in place
3. **pellucid** (adj.)

A) shaped like a shield

B) liable to punishment

C) translucently clear
4. **divaricate** (v.)

A) to turn aside

B) stretch apart

C) stray from a topic
5. **moil** (v.)

A) to think over

B) bring to naught

C) work hard
6. **transpicious** (adj)

A) easily understood

B) easily missed

C) easily forgotten
7. **habile** (adj.)

A) customary

B) suitable

C) skillful
8. **appetency** (n.)

A) an inherent mistake

B) a desire

C) a request

- ANSWERS:
4. B. To stretch or spread apart; diverge widely
5. C. To work hard; move around in confusion or agitation
6. A. Transparent; easily understood; lucid
7. C. Delft; skillful
8. B. A longing or desire
1. A. A feeling or state of intense excitement and happiness; a sense of well-being
2. B. To enjoy oneself unrestrainedly; frolic
3. C. Translucently clear; (of music or other sound) clear and pure in sound

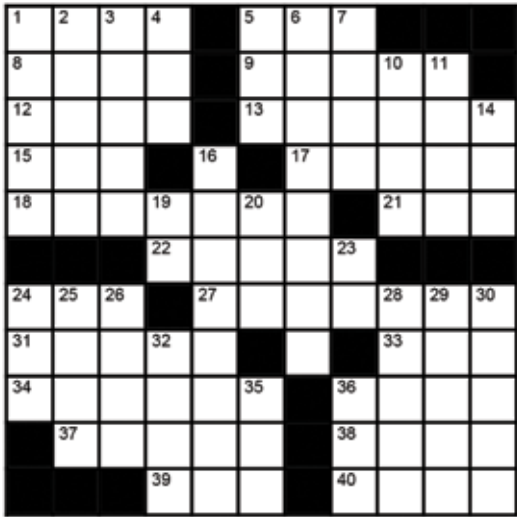
Crossword

Across

1. Abbey area
5. Electrical unit
8. Dimwit
9. Messes up
12. Memorab___
13. Marsh birds
15. Watch
17. Eye's middle layer
18. Lift
21. Like some wine
22. Pitcher's place
24. Lyric poem
27. Big bore
31. Purple flower
33. Big brute
34. Dictator
36. Line around which an object rotates
37. Vast extents
38. Human head bug
39. Good name, for short
40. "Hey you!"

Down

1. Goodbye word
2. Tumor
3. More artful
4. LAX abbr.
5. Miners' find
6. French Protestant, in history
7. Ballistic missile system abbreviation
10. Require
11. Military award
14. Fox demeanor



16. Early movie projector
19. Morning
20. Orb
23. Cheat, trick
24. Hackneyed
25. Faded out
26. "Or ___!"
28. Math term
29. Long stories
30. Odometer no-no
32. Rich Little is one
35. RX abbr.
36. Matterhorn, e.g.

Answers on page 26

Look to the Skies This Month to Find Some Consistency and Comfort

On a warm, clear night a week or two ago, I got dinner on and off the table and stepped out to my favorite south-facing spot. As the last of the shadows dissolved around me, my phone rang. Not video, just a regular voice call from an old friend.

While star after star popped into the night, like bubbles in a glass of champagne, we chatted about old times and talked about today's scary, abbreviated life.

While we all cope with the turmoil around us and look for consistent and reliable things, there's good news! The skies haven't been canceled.

We can still look out across the galaxy together and take comfort in knowing, with some minor

differences in the details, we're all connected to the same sky, and it connects us.

Each night the view's the same all over Westchester, across the country and around the northern hemisphere. The exact placing and timing of the stars might change, but the patterns themselves are the same. Maybe we

can use this uncomfortable time to have something of a social distancing star party; invite anyone you want!

First, let's look to the north and find the Big Dipper. As May comes along, it's high toward the top of the sky, upside down, pouring soup onto your neighbors' roofs. If you watch from night to night, or even hour to hour, you'll see the Dipper turn, and revolve counterclockwise around the sky. It's there, as steady and reliable as the sky itself, every night of the year. Six months from now, it'll be just above the horizon, catching the soup it poured this month.

Clear Skies

Next, follow the curve of the Dipper's handle away from the bowl. The next bright star you

see is Arcturus, the second brightest we can see in our night sky. It's an old red giant, nearing the end of its life. Billions of years from now, when our sun has used up most of the hydrogen that powers it, it will cool and grow into a star similar to Arcturus. So, in a way, looking at Arcturus is like looking at our own future.

Do you ever spot the moon one night and point to remind to yourself – maybe a little too loud for passersby – that it'll be in that seemingly blank patch of sky tomorrow night? The next full moon is on May 7. Let's look for it a few nights before and after, and notice when it rises each night, and what the far-off stars around it look like when it does.

What phase is it in? How does the terminator, the line that separates the lunar day from night look? Is it curved? Can you see any shadows stretching across its face?

Or maybe do my favorite thing of all: just look. Don't worry about names, or distances, or constellations or any of it. Just look and imagine space. What's it like there or there or there? What's hiding in that seemingly empty gap overhead? Let your mind go anywhere it wants.

Whether you call a friend and look up, or just take some comfort knowing that we're all looking at the same thing, the consistency of the sky is a great



By Scott Levine

tool for togetherness and getting through social distancing.

It's tough these days, but little by little we're making our way through. I hope you can look up this month. Drop me a line and let me know what you see. We'll be on the other side, and be better for it, before we know it.

Scott Levine
(astroscott@yahoo.com)

is an astronomy writer and speaker from Croton-on-Hudson. He is also a member of the Westchester Amateur Astronomers, which is dedicated to astronomy outreach in our area. For information about the club, including membership, newsletters, upcoming meetings and lectures at Pace University and star parties at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, visit westchesterastronomers.org. Events are free and open to the public. Please note: All in-person club activities are suspended until further notice due to COVID-19.

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Ireland's Crucible: Easter 1916 Remembered

We just passed a milestone in Ireland's history that probably went unnoticed by most. It didn't escape my notice, and compelled me to display again the Irish flag outside my house, displacing only temporarily the U.S. flag that flies there most of the time.

In 1916, Apr. 24 was the day after Easter. Still quiet from the Holy Day, the streets of Dublin did not have their usual bustle when a rag-tag group of men, with rifles shouldered, marched up to the General Post Office on Sackville Street (today O'Connell Street), seized the massive building and on its steps proclaimed Ireland an independent nation. Their leader was a 37-year-old teacher named Padraic Pearse. His dream of freeing Ireland included full awareness that it would likely cost him his life.

Their act that day sparked an almost weeklong battle in Dublin's streets, pitting some 1,250 rebels against the might of the British Empire, which quickly brought in some 16,000 regular troops, along with 1,000 police of the Royal Irish Constabulary. The tide was quickly turned.

Within days, the rebels were hounded from every position they had seized and had no choice but to surrender. Viewed by most of the people of Dublin as back-stabbing traitors, they were spat upon when they finally capitulated on Saturday, Apr. 29.

Why the adverse reaction? Some



KEOGH & SONS PHOTO

Ruins of the GPO, Rebel HQ.

200,000 Irishmen were fighting in the British Army against the Germans in World War I. Almost 50,000 of them would die, and their families at home bore little sympathy for those who would slight their loved ones' sacrifice.

The toll was fearful. In six days of fighting, 485 people died, including 260 civilians, and much of central Dublin lay in ruins after indiscriminate British shelling of the city center in an effort to flush the rebels out and bring them to bay.

Irish Eclectic

Had the British left things at that, and slapped Pearse and his band into prison, they and their dreams might have been forgotten. But vengeance clouded judgment, and within weeks 16 of the rebels had been executed, their bodies dumped unceremoniously into a lime-filled pit.

New York-born Eamon DeValera,

son of an Irish immigrant mother and a Spanish father, was spared this fate only because he was a U.S. citizen. His execution might have forestalled U.S. entry into World War I, a key goal of British foreign policy. Saved from the executioner's block, "Dev" went on to become Ireland's leading statesman. His death in 1975 was mourned by millions on both sides of the Atlantic.

Almost overnight, the executions of May 1916 turned reviled dreamers into exalted martyrs, and led to five years of warfare between the Irish and the Empire. It culminated in the creation of the 26-county Irish Free State in 1921.

Peace, however, was short-lived, and Ireland soon devolved into a bitter civil war between Free State supporters, who believed half a loaf was better than none, and those who would settle for nothing less than the 32-county Republic that Pearse had proclaimed in 1916. The Irish Civil War raged two more years, and cost more in lives than the struggle against the British ever had. Some would argue it is



By Brian McGowan

not finished yet.

From our last column

Last week's column addressed the tragic fate of Florence Marie McGowan, my aunt, at 13 years old to the 1918 flu pandemic. Several readers wondered why a picture wasn't run. Unfortunately, space did not allow for this.

That is corrected this week, with thanks to the editor! For those of

you who may have missed the article, please access the online edition of The



Florence Marie McGowan

Examiner to view a poignant memoir of a past that has become all too familiar in the present: theexaminernews.com/archives/westchester/West.Examiner4-21-20.pdf (article on page 22).

Pleasantville resident Brian McGowan is a second-, third- and fifth-generation Irish-American/Canadian and author of two books: "Love, Son John," about World War II, and "Thunder

at Noon," on the Battle of Waterloo. Both are available at Amazon.com. Reach him at brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com. To see more on "things Irish," follow his blog, "Rethinking Irish," at www.rethinkingirish.com.

Crossword Answers



Couples Struggling Through Divorce Can Expedite the Process

By MaryEllen Linnehan, Esq.

Last week, one of my clients called me in distress: he had just been furloughed, and with cash as tight as it was, he had no idea how he would pay his child support.

Another client worried that since her ex was a healthcare worker, on the COVID-19 front line, how could she trust that the children would be safe in his home?

With the courts essentially closed, what can couples in the midst of a divorce do to address important and urgent family issues?

The challenges of dealing with COVID-19 have created high stress and

emotional upset for families. Many families are facing economic turmoil, resulting in serious cash flow problems. Parents are understandably fearful about their child's safety, and arguments about which parent's home is safer for the children are sprouting up everywhere.

For couples still living together, cooped up in isolation, dealing with each other can be a nightmare. Tensions flare and children may be exposed to more unhappiness and toxic conflict between parents.

There is a lot of uncertainty about when courts will reopen. Even when they do, litigants typically face long waiting periods to obtain relief. Families need help now.

There is a better way to deal with divorce and conflict without court: collaborative divorce. People can begin the collaborative divorce process immediately. There is no waiting period, and couples can work within their own timeline, moving as quickly or slowly as they need to.

Here's how the collaborative divorce process can help:

- Deal with immediate financial and co-parenting concerns, in both divorce and post-divorce situations
- Focus on what matters to each party
- Keep the children front and center
- Work together to make decisions tailored to the needs of all family members
- Preserve family privacy
- Preserve assets

Couples can work together right now during the shutdown. In the collaborative divorce process, we work in a safe and supportive team environment. Couples have the support and guidance of their attorneys, a divorce family specialist to help with co-parenting, communication, and emotional needs and a neutral financial specialist to work the numbers. We can help not only with long-term outcomes, but also with immediate solutions to ease financial and emotional tension.

Dealing with conflict is hard enough during normal times; trying to resolve urgent divorce-related economic and parenting issues during a pandemic requires a herculean effort. The caring legal, mental health and financial professionals who



work in the collaborative divorce process can help you get the negotiating done in a respectful and dignified way. When court opens, we'll be there with your signed agreement ready to file.

To speak with a collaborative divorce professional, visit www.CollaborateNY.com.

MLinnehan@DayLinnehanLaw.com, phone 914-242-7200

MaryEllen Linnehan is a partner with Day & Linnehan Collaborative Law with offices in Mount Kisco and Manhattan.

CORONAVIRUS SAFETY

Follow these easy steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Disinfect surfaces around your home and work.

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.

Sneeze or cough? Cover your mouth.

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Bicycle Sundays to Return May 3 With Modified Route

Westchester Parks Foundation and Westchester County Parks last week announced the dates for its 46th annual Bicycle Sundays 2020 season.

The program kicks off this Sunday, May 3 and continues on Sundays in May, June and September from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. except during the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

Bicyclists, skaters, joggers and walkers take over several miles of the Bronx River Parkway. The course will be slightly modified this year, beginning at Main Street in White Plains (instead of the County Center) and continue south to Scarsdale Road in Yonkers. The program is supported through generous donations from Con Edison.

It is recommended that participants wear a mask or a face covering since social distancing may not always be able to be maintained.

"We understand the need to strike the correct balance between maintaining important social distance guidelines and providing people with an escape from the pandemic," County Executive George Latimer said. "We are excited to be able to continue this Westchester County tradition that many look forward to all year long."

"Now more than ever we need to #StandUpForParks and the essential service

they provide for all Westchester residents," said Joe Stout, executive director of the Westchester Parks Foundation. "We are thrilled to continue this iconic event that provides a healthy lifestyle and promotes importance of environmental preservation for generations to come. We are grateful to Con Edison for their generous support and commitment to parks and open space."

There are numerous points of entry along the route. Although parking will be available in the County Center's east parking lot, participants will follow signs and directions to enter the route at Main Street once they exit their cars. Bicycle Sundays are free and open to the public.

Bicycle Sundays are a beloved Westchester tradition since 1974. Since 2012, the program has been funded solely by Westchester Parks Foundation and its partners. No public funding goes toward maintaining the program. Each year, more than 60,000 cyclists, joggers and others come out to enjoy the curves and wooded scenery that make the nation's first parkway a national historic landmark. The path winds alongside the wooded Bronx River Reservation.

For more information, visit <https://www.thewpf.org/programs/bicycle-sundays>.

Different Type of Earth Day



It would have been hard to imagine that for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, most of us would be sheltering from a pandemic. But through the magic of technology, the Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council teamed up with Robin Bucu, the owner of All Together Now, and hosted an online celebration via Zoom last Wednesday. The purpose was to share the joy of nature and conservation with local children, even if it wasn't a large social gathering. More than 40 adults and 50 children participated.

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A Virtual Trip to Relive My Wine Country Wanderlust



By Nick Antonaccio

Having exhausted the lists of wine-themed movies and books recommended in my recent columns, I've resorted to sorting through wine travel photos and videos to relive the pleasures of past adventures. I've become lost in

another time when one could soak in the beauty of the creations of nature and man.

One trip in particular has captivated me all week, a trip to northern California wine country several years ago. Allow me to recount that experience, as previously reported in Grapevine columns.

Arriving at our destination, my wife and I roamed the countryside, driving from the valley floors to the steep slopes of the mountains surrounding Napa Valley and the undulating terrain of Sonoma County. We found ourselves immersed

in the allure of the countryside, marveling at the natural beauty and bounty of the region.

On the valley floor, along the two main arteries running up and down the valley, it was easy to lose sight of the broader landscape and beauty of the Napa region. It was not until we climbed the hillsides that border the east and west of the valley that

our perspective changed. Looking across the wide expanse of the valley, we understood the unique terroir that has elevated Napa Valley to the heights of oenological prestige.

In the mornings the fog hovers like a warm blanket, coddling the vines and protecting them from cool nights. As the sun burns away this layer, the vineyards radiate from the intense sunlight and heat. The waning afternoon sun casts a surreal glow on the valley floor, rivaling the brushstrokes on any artist's canvas.

As we drove west from Napa Valley, up and down the slopes and turns of the Mayacamas Mountains, we headed toward the coast. Our destination: the isolated West Sonoma Coast wine region and Fort Ross Vineyard.

Driving past the natural beauty of Point Reyes Station, densely populated with soaring eagles, snowy egrets and 490 other avian species, we continued to our destination atop the town of Fort Ross.

We were not prepared for this encounter with nature. From the turn onto the road winding up the mountainside to the winery,

we felt the temperature dropping and the wind picking up. We counted 17 switchbacks and hairpin turns along the harrowing, narrow two-lane road, rising 1,500 feet above the ocean below us.

Though treacherous, the ride rewarded us all the way to the top. With each switchback we were treated to a unique view of the



surrounding forests of tall, lush pines. With each hairpin turn, we witnessed long vistas north and south along the coast.

We arrived at the winery by driving higher and deeper into the woods along a dirt trail until we came upon the modern tasting room and a new, mesmerizing vista. Sitting on the veranda, taking in the vistas from the 1,700-foot elevation, we began to understand the unique characteristics of this region.

The view of the redwood tree-adorned mountains below was shrouded in fog, yet we were immersed in the warmth of the sun radiating above the fog line. Views of the rocky shoreline of the Pacific Ocean stretched for miles to the north and south.

We accepted an invitation to tour the vineyards in the estate's creaky old pickup truck. We eagerly accepted, perhaps a bit too much so. The rusted truck traversed the mountainous estate with aplomb, climbing up and down the steep terrain. My wife and I clung to the door handles as we precariously ascended the steep slopes of multiple

narrow ridges. The next minute we were gripping the dashboard as we descended to the next ridge at severe angles, both vertical and slightly horizontal.

We stopped to catch our breath at a plateau that seemed at the top of the world. Standing under a lone oak tree at 1,700 feet above sea level, we drank in the vistas of the individual vineyard blocks stretching above and below us, undulating along the natural ridges and valleys of the property.

We felt we had found the epitome of man's symbiotic relationship with nature.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years, he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine journalists. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

A Spiritual View

By Cantor Lilah Sugarman

I wanted to take some time to share a meaningful practice in the Jewish tradition that has become especially important during these challenging times.

In the Jewish tradition, we are in a time called the Counting of the Omer, in which we count 49 days from the second day of Passover up to the holiday of Shavuot, a holiday in which we celebrate receiving the Torah and all the commandments. Each day we say a blessing and count the day and week of the 49 days.

On a spiritual level, Counting of the Omer mirrors the anticipation and preparation our ancestors felt as they wandered in the desert, and before they received the Torah. In addition to giving time for noticing and saying blessings, the Counting of the Omer is considered a time

with great potential for inner growth. Throughout this time, we are invited to work on ourselves, reflecting and developing one aspect of our character for each of the 49 days of the counting.

As we wander through these uncertain times, Counting of the Omer has allowed me to take time each day to say a blessing, to bring gratitude toward this specific day and to work on inner growth. May we continue to balance these times of

uncertainty, fear and grief by carving out time to count our blessings.

Lilah Sugarman is the cantor at Congregation B'nai Yisrael in Armonk, which is part of the Armonk Faith Alliance. The alliance also comprises Hillside Church, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, St. Patrick's RC Church and St. Nersess' Armenian Seminary.



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention is now recommending people wear cloth masks outside the home to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

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Don't Let COVID-19 End Our Relationship: Please Donate

By Ray Gallagher

I have been on deadlines for more than three decades now, from my current 13-year employer, Examiner Media, to the old North County News, with stops at the Bedford-Record, the Putnam County News & Recorder and the Halston papers along the way.

I've loved nearly every minute of it, including the friendships I've formed with fans, athletes, administrators, teachers and coaches, but I've especially loved the final product; the pun-filled, sensationalized back-and-front-page headlines, which, I'm told, have made a lot of student-athletes' days, as well as delighted parents and grandparents alike.

Unfortunately, those days could be numbered as small businesses around the globe are smacked in the mouth by this nasty virus, COVID-19. We're all hurting in some form or another right now, including local news outlets like Examiner Media, where I have proudly served as sports editor since 2007. I can't imagine anyone, outside of maybe Netflix or perhaps Charmin (#DamnHorders), getting a boom from these shelter-in-place directives we are in right now, particularly us imperiled New Yorkers making the best of these makeshift situations.

Staying strong – minus a thick slice of your advertising base – is damn near impossible for a free newspaper like The Examiner,

a local weekly that has been committed to your communities, your children, your livelihood since Day One. What started out as a smalltime newspaper in Pleasantville and Mount Kisco has since grown exponentially – from the City of White Plains to the border of Dutchess County, our devoted staff covers dozens of school districts and municipalities across two counties, Westchester and Putnam.

Together, we have grown. Together, we will continue to flourish. But this is the only time in our history where our needs – those of Examiner Media – cannot be achieved by our merits alone. Local, homegrown journalism cannot survive this pandemic on its own, relying only on advertising revenue from small businesses. We need whatever modest amount of help you can provide so we can hit the ground running when the powers that be give us the green light to continue chronicling your sports endeavors and providing the memories our communities crave.

In 30-plus years I've never missed a deadline (#Facts), and I don't know what to do when I'm not on one. So please hit the link on our website's home page or at the end of this column in an effort to get us "normal" again, so I can continue to dig deep into this twisted psyche to create the headlines you crave, to provide the in-your-face sports coverage you've become accustomed to throughout northern Westchester and Putnam County.

We need your grassroots support to



Sports Editor Ray Gallagher, left, with Examiner Publisher Adam Stone at the company's 10-year anniversary party in 2017 at Mount Kisco's Lexington Square. Gallagher and Stone have been working together since 2002, when the pair were both staffers at North County News, the now-defunct Yorktown weekly newspaper. Gallagher was that paper's longtime sports editor while Stone was a news reporter. Stone founded The Examiner in 2007 and Gallagher has been a star contributor from the jump.

continue our local news reporting. It's about the power of community. It's about the power of you, ensuring our lasting relationships.

Please donate if you can to our Examiner – COVID-19 Local News Fund at <https://>

givebutter.com/theexaminernews #Thanks!
Ray Gallagher is Examiner Sports Editor.
Follow him on Twitter: @Directrays

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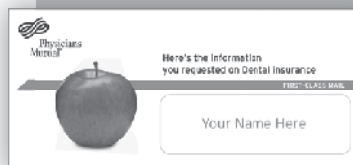
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A BIG TIME THANK YOU TO OUR READERS!

"Thank you Adam and Wilbur. We are praying for a quick recovery and for all of you at the Examiner News - stay well!"

"We hope to get back to 'normal' again and reading Ray Gallagher's creative headlines. #THEEXAMINERNEWS #THEBEST"

"The Fox Lane Gridiron Club, it's players, Coaches, Staff & Families THANK YOU for ALWAYS being there for us with outstanding coverage & support at every game and event!! The Examiner has always played a significant role in lifting morale, encouraging community awareness and helping to spread OUR school spirit!! We love you and your GREAT pictures!! Best of Luck Adam! SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS and FOX LANE NEWS is the BEST!"

"I imagine how incredibly helpful your news is to everyone right now. Sending support!!!!"

"You are so very important to all of our communities - bringing us the up-to-date news. We want you to stay financially healthy."

"Thank you so much for your local coverage. Both World Cup Gymnastics and World Cup Nursery School appreciate what you are going through as a small business. We wish you well and good luck getting through these difficult times."

"We're in this fight together. Times are tough, but we'll get through this. Stay strong."

"Thank you for all you do to bring local news to the community. We're all better for having you around, and I'm

glad to be able to do my part."

"Great local news. Apple Pie and the Examiner!"

"Add my name to your list of fans! And that's not because we are related."

"Keep up the great journalism and important work. Old school community journalism at its best."

"We are devout readers of The Examiner. A publication like this is a necessity in our small local communities. Rarely do we go into Starbucks, the barber shop or the lobby at the Jacob Burns without seeing people engrossed in an issue. We are proud to support a paper based on integrity and a generous community spirit."

"It's an honor to support such a fantastic enterprise that means so much to our communities."

"I Thank You, Mount Kisco Thanks You and William Raveis Real Estate Thanks You. I Love The Examiner"

"This community is in desperate need of a local, community news source, especially as we wade into these uncharted waters caused by coronavirus. Adam is an amazing journalist who's built an upstanding, quality news outfit. He's been there for all of us, now it's time to be there for him and his team. Godspeed, Adam."

"Proud supporter of The Examiner. It's my favorite resource for news and happenings in our community."

"We have been fans and friends of Adam Stone and were fortu-

nate enough to watch him create and print the first edition of The Examiner in 2007. Adam, his team, and the paper are a shining light in our community. It's not a flim flam local rag, it's real journalism that addresses the tough issues while celebrating and documenting the lives of our neighbors. Local news is important, it's where national news starts... I'm proud that they are in my community and happy to support them in any way I can."

"Your service to the community deserves support in regular circumstances too, but especially in these difficult times."

"You've always supported our community and it's with great pleasure that we return the favor. May The Examiner continue to serve and thrive."

"I worked for The Examiner for about 3 1/2 years as a freelance sports writer and newspaper distributor. I learned a lot working with Adam, Ray and Andy, and they helped and supported me as I moved on to become a full-time sports reporter at the Poughkeepsie Journal. The Examiner is a venerable weekly, and I'm more than happy to offer my support during these hard times."

"I thank you for balanced informative local news. we gladly support you."

"Looking forward to continued fair and accurate local reporting. Wishing your staff and readers good health."

"As a member of CD17Indivisible, I much appreciate the outlet you have provided for the many letters

to the Editor published in support of key local issues. We believe in a Free press that provides a voice to those who seek to call attention to Community concerns. As such, I am pleased to contribute to your continuance and success in these challenging times."

"So proud of what you are doing for your community!!! Thank you!"

"Thank you for always covering Lakeland & Panas Sports!"

"We look forward to reading the hard copy of your Examiner every week. Martin Wilbur's reporting is accurate and always right on target."

"Putnam Examiner does a great job promoting student-athletes in our community Stay safe and healthy."

"Your reporting on local government news is excellent! We also enjoy your columnists, especially Nick Antonaccio on wine, Bill Primavera ("The Home Guru"), and Brian Kleupfel on birding. Keep up the great work!"

"You've always been their for Fox Lane so we're here for you."

"Adam, Martin and team, The Examiner is an important and valued resources for our community!"

Thank you to the 306 readers who, as of late Sunday morning (in contributions of mostly \$25 to \$100) donated \$22,867 and growing. We appreciate all of the ongoing generosity and kind words.

For those who would prefer to **donate by check**, made checks payable to **Examiner Media** and mail them to **P.O. Box 611, Mt. Kisco NY 10549**. But checks mailed to us directly won't be tax-deductible. Donations made online at givebutter.com/theexaminernews are tax-deductible.



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